Sunday
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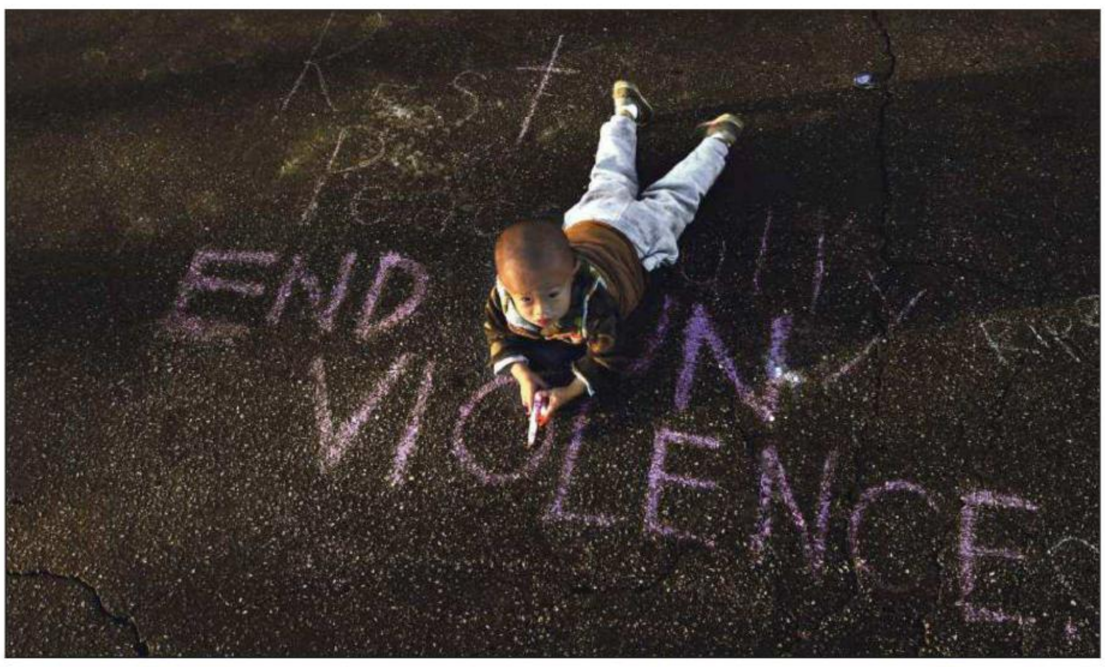
The news of the mass shooting in Monterey Park broke early last Sunday morning and crashed into the expectations of a new day. Details were slow to develop — a gunman still at large — but soon enough the scope of the tragedy was laid bare. ¶ *Ten people were killed and at least 10 others were injured when a gunman opened fire at a ballroom dance studio ...* ¶ *The shooting occurred off a main thoroughfare of Monterey Park, Calif., that earlier in the day had hosted a festival celebrating the eve of the Lunar New Year, a major holiday in many Asian communities ...* ¶ A familiar dirge had begun, voices rising up, struggling to find the words to match this horrendous act. ¶ But nothing succeeds, just silence. We've been here too often — at Sandy Hook, Orlando, Parkland, Buffalo, Colorado Springs — standing upon this terrible topography. ¶ And now it had landed us in a familiar suburb — among Los Angeles' many familiar suburbs — where the story felt more intimate, more knowable.

The victims were our neighbors.

ESSAY BY THOMAS CURWEN CONTINUES ON A11,
ALONG WITH MORE ON THE LIVES LOST IN THE SHOOTINGS IN MONTEREY PARK, A10, AND IN HALF MOON BAY, A9.



Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

HARRY SU, 2, on a chalk message at the memorial for the 11 people killed in Monterey Park.

3 shot dead, 4 hurt in Benedict Canyon

Neighbors on quiet L.A. cul-de-sac express shock over attack, which police say wasn't random.

By Richard Winton, Corinne Purtill, Alene Tchekmedyian and Matthew Ormseth

When Rachel David arrived at her Benedict Canyon home early Saturday morning after a night out, she thought the rows of flashing police cars were part of a film shoot, which is fairly common in the area.

She soon found out it wasn't a movie set. Police said three people — women in their mid-20s or early 30s — were shot to death inside a car and four wounded outside during a gathering in the quiet cul-de-sac tucked away in a secluded neighborhood north of Beverly Hills.

The shooting capped a deadly week in California. A gunman killed 11 people in a mass shooting in Monterey Park last weekend, and two days later, another assailant fatally shot seven people at two farms near Half Moon Bay.

"I wait for my Ubers right at that corner," David said Saturday morning, pointing at the intersection of Ellison and Arby drives, where there was a slash of yellow police tape. "Not anymore."

Investigators on Saturday afternoon were still searching for whoever was responsible and gave little information about what happened or who was in-

[See **Shooting,** A8]

Attacks upend U.S. mission

Blinken will be forced to focus on security, not democracy, in Mideast. **WORLD, A4**

L.A. County is beating COVID

Three years in, the region is "in a better place" through immunity and vaccinations. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Southwest pays for its debacle

Airline is working on IT and its reputation. But experts see more disruptions ahead. **BUSINESS, A15**

Weather:
Rain and drizzle.
L.A. Basin: 56/45. **B10**

Printed with soy inks on partially recycled paper.

Art, juice bar, yoga: Returning to the office sounds good

By Roger Vincent

As landlords struggle to get people back into office buildings that emptied during the pandemic, some are turning to entertainment and other enticements such as yoga classes to woo wary workers.

At the Water Garden office complex in Santa Monica, a dance troupe has taken up residence and puts on free performances and classes for kids. Flower arranging classes are packed, and the weekly tenants-only comedy show after work is a hot ticket. Musical performances by local artists are a lunchtime draw.

Farmers markets, concerts, art shows and other attractions for office tenants aren't completely new, but they have taken on urgency as landlords and executives of companies occupying their buildings strive to get workers enthused about showing up. Some property owners are hiring "tenant experience managers."

In most commercial buildings, only about half the workers show up at their offices on weekdays, keycard swipes reveal. Office leasing is also weak: Space rentals declined again last quarter to bring the overall total of unleased space in Los Angeles County to nearly 20%, well above the 12% rate before the pandemic.

To get workers in the of-

[See **Offices,** A14]

Cannabis abuses under scrutiny

State lawmakers call for investigation into labor exploitation and corruption in market.

By Paige St. John and Adam Elmahrek

California lawmakers are calling for a sweeping investigation into corruption in the state's cannabis industry, legislative hearings on the exploitation of farmworkers and new laws to thwart labor trafficking in response to revelations of rampant abuses and worker deaths in a multibillion-dollar market that has become increasingly unmanageable.

The proposals follow a series of Times investigations last year showing that California's 2016 legalization of recreational cannabis spurred political corruption, explosive growth in illegal cultivation and widespread exploitation of workers. The Times found that wage theft was rampant and that many workers were subjected to squalid, sometimes lethal conditions.

A spokesperson for the state's Department of Industrial Relations told The Times last week that the agency is examining the deaths of 32 cannabis farmworkers — never reported to work safety regulators — uncovered by the newspaper.

"We should be a little bit ashamed that we've allowed

[See **Cannabis,** A8]

Memphis case raises issue of cops' race

Tyre Nichols' beating by five Black officers hints at misguided ideas about policing.

By Jaweed Kaleem

The cycle of police violence and protest in America has so often been told as a story of white officers killing Black men that three words — "Black lives matter" — stand as global shorthand.

But the death of Tyre Nichols has challenged the narrative.

The 29-year-old FedEx worker — who died after police in Memphis, Tenn., pulled him over, used a Taser and pepper spray on him and severely beat him — was a Black man. So are the five police officers charged with murdering him.

Memphis' police chief, who has condemned and fired the officers, is a Black woman. And more than half the police force in Memphis, a majority Black city, is Black.

Making law enforcement more racially diverse has long been promoted as a way to improve community relations and reduce police

[See **Policing,** A12]

Police to disband 'Scorpion' unit

In reversal, chief notes "heinous" acts of the five cops charged in Nichols' death. **NATION, A13**

Reflections on Rodney King

His daughter says comparisons to 1991 beating miss the point on racism, policing. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

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Pushback over a bid to unshackle workers

FTC seeks to ban noncompete clauses, which can trap people in lousy jobs. Guess who's griping.

MICHAEL HILTZIK

Whenever a government agency proposes a regulation that might help workers by reining in an employer abuse, you can count on some heavy breathing from the big business lobby.

Case in point: The Federal Trade Commission's move to ban noncompete clauses in employment contracts, which forbid ex-workers to take jobs in their chosen field, sometimes for years after they quit and often within hundreds of miles of their former employer. About 1 in 5 American workers — 30 million people — are bound by these restrictions.

The FTC's target is a good one. "By preventing workers across the labor force from pursuing better opportunities that offer higher pay or better working conditions, and by preventing employers from hiring qualified workers bound by these contracts, noncompetes hurt workers and harm competition," the commission wrote in issuing its rule proposal on Jan. 5.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce provided the heavy breathing on Jan. 22, through an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal with the byline of the chamber's president and chief executive, Suzanne P. Clark.

For Clark, the proposal was a sign that FTC Chair Lina Khan "doesn't intend to let the law or Constitution get in her way" as she tries to level the playing field between employers and employees.

The chamber, she writes, will fight the noncompete clause rule "with all the tools at our disposal, including litigation."

A couple of things about this. Clark puts her thumb on the scale by referring to the FTC's target as noncompete "agreements."

In most cases, they're not agreements, in the sense of having resulted from negotiations between employer and employee. Rather, they're restrictions imposed on workers by businesses, often hidden away in the fine print of employment contracts.

Workers often don't even know they're in place until after they've left one company for another, and their original employer threatens a lawsuit.

Also, it's obvious that the chamber isn't merely concerned about the noncompete clause regulation but about the Khan-led FTC's intention to take a tougher stand against unfair methods of competition.

TOM WILLIAMS CQ-Roll Call

LINA KHAN, chair of the Federal Trade Commission, testifies in Washington in 2022. She has tried to level the playing field between employers and employees.

If the commission is allowed to ban noncompete clauses, "there is no aspect of employment or commercial arrangements that it doesn't have the authority to regulate or ban arbitrarily," Clark frets, sounding more than a teensy bit paranoid. "Don't like the pay gap between executives and nonexecutives? The FTC could simply declare it unfair and regulate it."

The chamber is targeting not these rules themselves but a new, more effective approach to regulation that the FTC unveiled in 2021 and of which the new proposal is an early example.

More on that in a moment. First, let's take a closer look at noncompete clauses in general.

The popularity of these clauses appears to be waning at the state level. In three states they're flatly unenforceable by law: California, North Dakota and Oklahoma.

In addition, 28 states ban them for certain occupations (often doctors and other healthcare workers), 11 states ban them for low- or middle-income workers (in Nevada, for workers earning less than $14.50 an hour) and nine ban those that restrict movement for extended periods (typically more than one year). Twelve states impose other restrictions on noncompetes. Many of these restrictions have been enacted within the last three years.

In issuing its proposal, the FTC is fulfilling a directive from President Biden. In a 2021 executive order on promoting competition in the U.S. economy, Biden instructed the FTC to take a hard look at noncompete clauses and any other workplace rules that "unfairly limit worker mobility."

Big business doesn't have much of a case in favor of noncompete clauses. They're the antithesis of the principles supposedly honored by "right to work" antiunion laws so beloved by employers and conservative politicians. They have a well-marked capacity to suppress wages and lock workers in lousy jobs.

Noncompete clauses traditionally were justified as measures to protect a company's trade secrets. Over time, they were expanded to absurd extents, covering menial and minimum-wage workers and so-called independent contractors who had no access to an employer's confidential information.

The fast-food chain Jimmy John's, for example, prohibited its employees from working at any other business that sells "submarine, hero-type, deli-style, pita, and/or wrapped or rolled sandwiches" within up to three miles from any Jimmy John's store and for two years after leaving the company, according to a lawsuit filed in 2016 by Illinois Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan. The franchisor agreed to drop the clause to settle Madigan's lawsuit and a second lawsuit filed by New York state.

That same year, New York Atty. Gen. Eric Schneiderman forced a medical lab firm to drop noncompete clauses that blocked workers from taking jobs with other firms for nine months after they left the company and within 50 miles of the firm's locations. The clauses at issue applied to technicians who traveled to homes and offices to draw blood, collect urine samples and conduct routine physical exams such as taking blood pressure readings.

Academic studies cited by the FTC, the White House and the Treasury Department have found that as many as 38% of workers have labored under such a clause at some point in their working life. Only 1 in 10 workers negotiated over their noncompete restrictions, and about one-third were presented with the clause "after having already accepted their job offer," researchers at the University of Michigan and the University of Maryland found.

On average, noncompete clauses reduce hourly wages by anywhere from 2% to 21%. A 2008 Oregon ban on noncompete clauses for hourly workers in Oregon, according to a study by Michael Lipsitz of the FTC and Evan Starr of the University of Maryland, "improved average occupational status in Oregon, raised job-to-job mobility, and increased the proportion of salaried workers without affecting hours worked."

Noncompetes don't only suppress wages and job mobility at the low end of the scale. They reduce the ability of higher-paid and -trained workers to start their own businesses.

The absence of noncompete enforcement may well have been an important factor in the development of Silicon Valley as a vibrant seedbed of innovation. In 1957, eight top-level employees of Shockley Semiconductor left the Palo Alto firm to found their own company, Fairchild Semiconductor. (Shockley, who was an inept and abusive boss, called them the "traitorous eight.")

By 1968, all eight had moved on again, starting Intel Corp., among other ventures. One of the eight, Jean Hoerni, launched more than a dozen startups in subsequent years, as political scientist Annalee Saxenian of UC Berkeley observed in "Regional Advantage," her seminal 1994 book about the evolution of Silicon Valley.

Had Shockley tried to confine the "traitorous eight" with noncompete agreements, the birth of Silicon Valley might have been much more difficult.

That brings us back to the FTC's initiative. It's part of an explicit change in how the commission approaches its regulatory duties. Until 2021, it took a case-by-case approach, bringing lawsuits or the threat of lawsuits against companies deemed to be engaging in anticompetitive behavior, and reaching out-of-court settlements in the majority of those cases. The result was an "uninspiring, if not bleak" enforcement record over the commission's more than 100 years of existence, as former Commissioner Joshua D. Wright and former FTC attorney Jan Rybnicek wrote in 2014.

"One hundred years is ample time ... to evaluate the virtues of the commission's case-by-case approach," they wrote. "The results of the experiment are in. They are not impressive." The case law on unfair methods of competition has ended up being spotty and ad hoc, they asserted, in advocating for a system of policy statements defining unfair practices in advance.

That's the approach being undertaken by the FTC today. It's unsurprising that it makes the Chamber of Commerce quail. In the past, businesses accused of misbehavior by the FTC could settle their cases with out-of-court settlements involving payments of chump change and leaving no trace of regulatory principles behind.

The chamber has one ally within the FTC, Commissioner Christine S. Wilson, a Trump appointee. Wilson dissented both from the commission's 2021 vote to change its enforcement approach and from its decision to propose a ban on noncompete clauses.

Clark mentioned the former dissent approvingly in her Wall Street Journal op-ed, specifically Wilson's assertion that the FTC majority was taking upon itself "the authority summarily to condemn essentially any business conduct it finds distasteful."

(She sneeringly referred to the majority's 2021 decision as "the work of an academic or think tank fellow who dreams of banning unpopular conduct and remaking the economy"; this was an obvious slap at Khan, a former faculty member at Columbia law school, a former FTC lawyer, and former legal director at the Open Markets Institute, which is, yes, a think tank.)

In her dissent from the noncompete initiative, Wilson stated that 47 state legislatures have "chosen to allow" noncomplete clauses. This is stretching the truth to the breaking point. Leaving aside the three states in which these clauses are banned outright, the truth is that a majority of states do restrict them in certain cases. In most of those that don't, legislatures simply haven't chosen to ban them, which is obviously different from making an affirmative choice to allow them.

Commissioner Wilson appeared to forget that in proposing a blanket rule against noncompete clauses, the commission was doing exactly what she had asked for in her previous dissent. After the commission scrapped its case-by-case approach, she groused that until it issued specific guidance, it "left businesses in the dark on how to structure their conduct to avoid a challenge by the commission."

She added, "Due process demands that the lines between lawful and unlawful conduct be drawn clearly."

Now she's complaining that the proposed noncompete ban, which draws precisely such a line, allows the majority "summarily to condemn conduct it finds distasteful."

In fact, the FTC isn't acting so summarily: It has given the public 60 days to file comments and leaves open the possibility that it will make changes in the proposed rule based on those comments and its own further analysis.

In other words, the FTC is taking a measured approach. It compiled the evidence on noncompete clauses, drafted a proposed rule and put it out for public scrutiny. Well, yes. Isn't that the role of a regulatory agency?

In any case, isn't it the role of a regulatory agency to condemn conduct it finds distasteful? The alternative is to let things slide, which was the FTC's old approach. Good riddance to that rubbish.

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LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

Biden, Pence documents are likely a boon for Trump

DOYLE McMANUS

When classified documents turned up in President Biden's former office, his Delaware home and the garage housing his Corvette, the political impact was predictable. Republicans gleefully accused Biden of the same offense that prompted the FBI to raid former President Trump's Florida estate last August.

The newly minted Republican chairmen of two House committees announced investigations of Biden — but not of Trump or former Vice President Mike Pence, who confessed that he too had found classified documents at home. Democrats lamented that Biden and his staff had squandered the moral high ground.

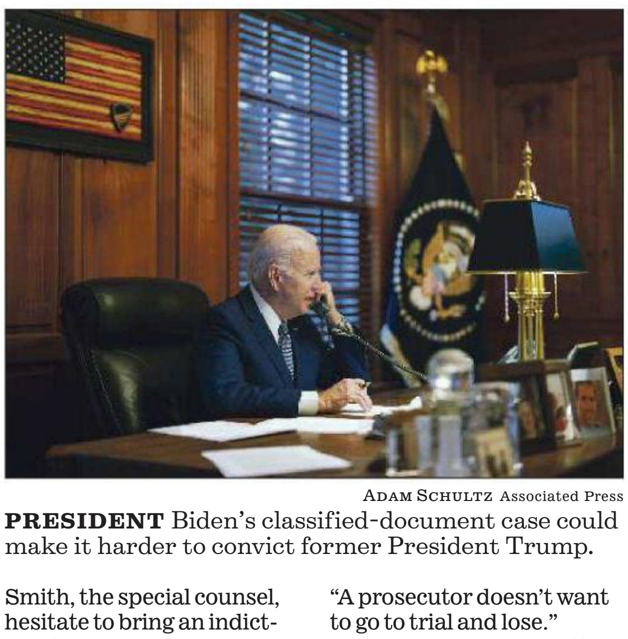
The differences between the cases are significant. Trump took hundreds of classified documents home; Biden took a far smaller number, assuming no more turn up. Trump resisted returning documents to the government; Biden's lawyers turned them in promptly. Trump appears to have held on to documents on purpose; Biden's aides say his mistakes were inadvertent.

Still, the impact of the Biden documents is likely to extend beyond whataboutism and congressional hearings. Former prosecutors say the discoveries will make it more difficult for Jack Smith, the special prosecutor investigating Trump, to indict the former president for his Mar-a-Lago misdeeds.

"It complicates things," warned Donald Ayer, who was a top Justice Department official in the George H.W. Bush administration. "It would take a tin ear for Jack Smith to bring an indictment on the Mar-a-Lago case anytime soon."

In theory, perhaps, one investigation shouldn't affect the other. But these aren't run-of-the-mill cases. They involve a president, a former president and a former vice president — all three of whom appear to be running for president in 2024.

On a practical level, the Biden and Pence cases could make it harder to win a conviction against Trump — and that could make Smith, the special counsel, hesitate to bring an indictment.



ADAM SCHULTZ Associated Press

PRESIDENT Biden's classified-document case could make it harder to convict former President Trump.

Under Justice Department regulations, a prosecutor must consider whether the evidence in a case is strong enough to win conviction from a jury. The fact that Trump isn't the only former officeholder who took classified documents home will matter.

"It will inevitably affect a jury; they'll wonder why the government isn't prosecuting Joe Biden," said Paul Rosenzweig, another former Justice Department official. "A prosecutor doesn't want to go to trial and lose."

On a higher plane, Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland wants to appear even-handed — especially if a prosecutor he appointed is considering the unprecedented step of indicting a former president.

"We do not have different rules for Democrats or Republicans," Garland said last week. "We apply the facts and the law in each case in a neutral, nonpartisan manner."

That's why he appointed a second special counsel, Robert K. Hur, to investigate the Biden documents.

But that didn't solve the problem.

If Smith indicts Trump, but Hur does not indict Biden, Trump supporters will inevitably charge that a double standard is at work. Many of them will believe it.

It won't be only dyed-in-the-wool Trumpists who are troubled. The spectacle of Biden's Justice Department prosecuting his predecessor would discomfit many who don't love Trump.

In an ideal world, both prosecutors could report their findings and explain their decisions at the same time, so the rest of us could compare the two cases side by side.

But the two special counsels are supposed to operate independently, without day-to-day supervision from the Justice Department. There's no mechanism for them to coordinate their decisions.

"Neither special counsel will be in a position to explain how his decisions are consistent with the other's," Jack Goldsmith of Harvard Law School wrote last week in the New York Times. "Nor can the attorney general obviously do so, since the key decisions are formally out of his control."

Even if the two special counsels wanted to report simultaneously, the timing of their cases may get in the way. The FBI has been investigating Trump's Mar-a-Lago documents for almost a year. The investigation of Biden's documents, by contrast, started only a few weeks ago.

Special counsels usually have the luxury of working without a fixed deadline. But it's in the public interest to resolve these cases before voters begin choosing the candidates for the 2024 presidential election.

"The clock is ticking," Rosenzweig noted. But in the Biden case, "Hur won't be done before the fourth quarter of this year. It can't be done any faster."

Garland can't control the prosecutors' timing — at least not without violating the principle that they are intended to be independent of the attorney general.

But the two cases could still end up on his desk. So will the burden of explaining to Americans why the outcome was fair.

If Garland hoped appointing special counsels would get him off the hook, it appears he guessed wrong.

Talks focus on missiles, planes for Ukraine

A Zelensky aide says army needs to provide cover for armored fighting vehicles.

By Susie Blann

Andriy Dubchak Associated Press

NINA KOVALENKO, 66, cries over the body of her son Mykhailo, 34, who was killed by a Russian attack in Kostyantynivka, Ukraine. Russian missiles killed three civilians and wounded 14 in the residential area.

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine and its Western allies are engaged in "fast-track" talks on the possibility of equipping the invaded country with long-range missiles and military aircraft, a top Ukrainian presidential aide said Saturday.

Mykhailo Podolyak, an advisor to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, said Ukraine's supporters in the West "understand how the war is developing" and the need to supply planes capable of providing cover for the armored fighting vehicles that the United States and Germany pledged recently.

However, in remarks to online video channel Freedom, Podolyak said that some of Ukraine's Western partners maintain a "conservative" attitude to arms deliveries, "due to fear of changes in the international architecture." Russia and North Korea have accused the West of prolonging and taking a direct role in the war by sending Kyiv increasingly sophisticated weapons.

"We need to work with this. We must show [our partners] the real picture of this war," Podolyak said, without naming specific countries. "We must speak reasonably and tell them, for example, 'This and this will reduce fatalities, this will reduce the burden on infrastructure. This will reduce security threats to the European continent, this will keep the war localized.' And we are doing it."

The U.S. and Germany agreed Wednesday to share advanced tanks with Ukraine along with the Bradley and Marder armored vehicles promised earlier, a decision that led to criticism not only from the Kremlin but from the far-right prime minister of Hungary, which is a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban asserted Friday that Western countries providing weapons and money to assist Ukraine in its war with Russia have "drifted" into becoming active participants in the conflict. Orban has refused to send weapons to neighboring Ukraine and sought to block EU funds earmarked for military aid.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said it would summon Hungary's ambassador to complain about Orban's remarks. A ministry spokesperson, Oleg Nikolenko, said Orban told reporters that Ukraine was "a no man's land" and compared it to Afghanistan.

"Such statements are completely unacceptable. Budapest continues on its course to deliberately destroy Ukrainian-Hungarian relations," Nikolenko said in a Facebook post.

President Biden's announcement that the U.S. would send 31 M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine reversed months of arguments by Washington that they were too difficult for Ukrainian troops to operate and maintain.

The U.S. decision persuaded German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who had expressed concern about a unilateral action drawing Russia's wrath, to agree to send 14 Leopard 2 tanks from Germany's stocks and to allow European countries with such tanks to send some of theirs.

Western weapons have proved essential to Ukraine's defense while stoking ever-higher tensions with Moscow. Russia's Defense Ministry said Saturday that Ukrainian forces used U.S.-made rockets to strike a hospital in the eastern Ukrainian town of Novoaidar, killing 14 people.

Novoaidar is in Luhansk province, which is almost entirely under the control of Russian forces or Russia-backed separatists. The Russian Defense Ministry alleged the hospital was deliberately targeted. Its claim of a strike in Novoaidar could not be immediately verified.

"A deliberate missile attack on a known operating civilian medical institution is an unconditional grave war crime of the Kyiv regime," the ministry said, according to Russian news agencies.

Amid the news of the Western pledges of heavy tanks, Russia bombarded Ukraine with missiles, exploding drones and artillery shells last week. The attacks continued Saturday, when Russian missiles struck the city of Kostyantynivka in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province.

The missiles fell in a residential area, killing three civilians, wounding 14 and damaging four high-rise apartment buildings, a hotel and garages, Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

"Kostyantynivka is a city relatively far from the front line, but still, it constantly suffers from enemy attacks. Everyone who remains in the city exposes themselves to mortal danger," Kyrylenko said. "The Russians target civilians because they are not able to fight the Ukrainian army."

In a separate Telegram post earlier Saturday, Kyrylenko reported that Russian attacks in the province killed four civilians in all and wounded seven others in 24 hours.

Russian rockets hit a residential area in the Donetsk town of Chasiv Yar on Friday night, killing two people and wounding five, the governor said. Photos attached to Kyrylenko's post showed a three-story school building on fire.

Donetsk province, where the territory is roughly split between Russian and Ukrainian control, has become the battle epicenter as Moscow tries to jump-start a months-long, grinding offensive to capture the city of Bakhmut.

Chasiv Yar lies on a hill strategically located for the defense of Bakhmut, and has come under intensified Russian shelling. Capturing Bakhmut would allow Russian troops to disrupt Ukrainian supply lines and potentially pave the way for them to threaten Slovyansk and Kramatorsk, the largest remaining Ukrainian-held cities in the country's east.

Russian forces continued ground attacks around Bakhmut and Avdiivka, another Donetsk city to the south, while Ukrainian troops were on the offensive in southern and northeastern Ukraine, the Ukrainian military said in a Saturday morning update.

Ukraine's military said Russian troops "are defending themselves" near Lyman in Luhansk and Kharkiv provinces north of Donetsk, as well as in Kherson and Zaporizhzhia provinces in the south.

The fighting has largely been deadlocked, with winter conditions slowing ground operations.

In the same update, the military reported that Russian forces launched 10 missile strikes, 26 airstrikes and 81 shelling attacks on Ukrainian territory between Friday and Saturday mornings. The shelling killed two civilians in Kherson, another province that is partly Russian-occupied.

Blann writes for the Associated Press.

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Attacks overshadow Blinken's Mideast trip

The violence will mean the planned focus on democracy will shift to security.

By Tracy Wilkinson

Fatima Shbair Associated Press

IN GAZA CITY, Palestinians celebrate after a shooting near an East Jerusalem synagogue killed seven, the day after a deadly Israeli raid.

WASHINGTON — America's top diplomat headed out on a trip to Egypt, Israel and the West Bank on Saturday as a spiral of deadly violence gripped the Middle East, with any plans to focus on democracy now overshadowed as the region braces for the no-holds-barred retaliation to Palestinian attacks that the new extremist Israeli government has vowed.

Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken will become the highest-level U.S. official to meet with Israel's new government, led by perennial Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and populated with far-right nationalists and haredim.

After a month in office, the Netanyahu administration has announced numerous policies that many Israelis say will erode Israel's democracy and civil rights, and that have alarmed U.S. officials.

The Blinken delegation had hoped to use two days of meetings in Jerusalem to press Netanyahu and other members of his Cabinet on a variety of issues including the normalization or recognition of Israel in the region, rights and freedoms for Palestinians as well as Israelis, and the importance of creating a Palestinian state.

"Normalization — advancing it and deepening it — will be on the agenda," as will the Biden administration's "unstinting commitment to a two-state negotiated solution," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Barbara Leaf said in a briefing ahead of the trip.

But those issues now will take second chair to Blinken's more pressing mission to urge de-escalation after violence over the last few days in Jerusalem and the West Bank, some of the deadliest in years.

Any serious criticism of the Israeli government's more drastic proposals will probably be shelved, several analysts predicted.

The wave of violence began Thursday when a raid by Israeli troops on the Jenin refugee camp in the occupied West Bank killed nine, most of whom Israel identified as militants planning a terrorist attack inside Israel. A woman in her 60s was among the dead, Palestinian authorities said.

A day later, as Israeli Jews observed Shabbat on Friday night, a suspected Palestinian gunman opened fire near a synagogue in East Jerusalem, killing seven and wounding several other people before police fatally shot the assailant. Palestinian militant groups praised the attack and celebrations were reported in several Palestinian towns.

In between those two deadly episodes, Palestinian militants fired rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel, and Israel launched several airstrikes on Palestinian positions. No casualties were reported.

On Saturday, Israeli police said a 13-year-old Palestinian boy shot and wounded an Israeli father and son near Jerusalem's Old City. Police wounded and captured the assailant.

Given history and the explosive tensions of the moment, the cycle of killing could continue. U.S. officials said they have been on the phone constantly since the Jenin operation with Israeli and Palestinian officials to urge calm.

President Biden telephoned Netanyahu on Friday night to condemn the deadly shooting at the synagogue, which Biden called "an attack against the civilized world."

In response to the Jenin deaths, the Palestinian Authority, the weakened body that governs the West Bank, announced that it was suspending what has been quietly successful security cooperation with Israel.

"Obviously, we don't think this is the right step to take at this moment," Leaf said of the move. "Far from stepping back on security coordination, we believe it's quite important that the parties retain — and if anything, deepen — security coordination."

But several members of Netanyahu's Cabinet have threatened to take an increasingly hard line with Palestinians. Now, the tough rhetoric will be tested as the government faces a genuine security crisis.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, convicted in Israel years ago for inciting anti-Arab hate but now a Cabinet minister, has been put in charge of national security. Ben-Gvir once advocated deporting "all Arabs," but softened his position more recently to say Palestinian "terrorists" should be expelled. He has also proposed changing rules of engagement to make it easier for soldiers and police to open fire on Palestinian demonstrators and more difficult to hold them accountable.

Ben-Gvir's presence in the Cabinet with such a powerful security role is especially unnerving for Palestinians. U.S. officials have also criticized some of his actions: He attended a recent memorial for his hero Meir Kahane, the slain racist rabbi whose organization was branded a terrorist group by the U.S. Blinken refuses to meet with Ben-Gvir, aides said.

Late Friday, Netanyahu promised "immediate actions" in response to the synagogue shooting.

"We must act with determination and composure," he said, while urging citizens not to take the law into their own hands.

At the site of the shooting, Ben-Gvir seemed to deliver the opposite message, promising to make it easier to arm civilians.

Netanyahu had not wanted to confront the Palestinian issue this early in his tenure because a fierce retaliation risks angering Arab nations that only recently recognized Israel, and who Netanyahu wants to keep on board in the quest for normalization, said Nimrod Goren, a fellow at the Mideast Institute in Washington and head of a think tank in Jerusalem that studies regional politics.

"The region will react to whatever happens with the Palestinians," Goren said from his home in Israel. "So far they've been willing to play along, but if things go badly on the Palestinian tract, they won't.

"The question is how quickly" they would turn on Israel and its government, he added.

Although the death toll in the region over the last couple of days is striking, the pace of violence — particularly in the West Bank — has been steadily rising for nearly a year.

Following a series of Palestinian attacks, Israel last spring launched a campaign raiding villages across the West Bank in what it said was an effort to eliminate militant cells. About 150 Palestinians were killed last year in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, along with about 30 Israelis, according to local human rights groups that keep track. Before Thursday's Jenin attack, an average of one Palestinian a day had been killed this year.

Netanyahu's new government is advocating numerous policies that contravene U.S. goals, including a plan to expand Jewish settlements in the West Bank, which is claimed by Palestinians for a future independent state. The settlements, which many countries consider illegal under international law, have proliferated exponentially to the point that a contiguous Palestinian state may now be impossible.

Netanyahu and his partners are also trying to overhaul the Israeli judiciary so that courts would no longer be able to vet laws, taking away an important checks-and-balances mechanism. Netanyahu's critics say his aim is to have a criminal corruption case against him voided.

Ultra-Orthodox members of the Cabinet want to inject more religion into education, make it harder for non-Orthodox foreign Jews to obtain Israeli citizenship and have condemned LGBTQ rights. Some Cabinet members, led by Ben-Gvir, want to upset the traditional status quo of religious sites in the Holy City, which are delicately divided among the three Abrahamic faiths: Judaism, Islam and Christianity. Days after taking office, Ben-Gvir made a provocative trip to the Temple Mount, known to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary, where, under rules in place for years, only Muslims may pray despite the site being sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

"We oppose any unilateral actions that undercut the historic status quo," State Department spokesman Ned Price said at the time. "They are unacceptable."

Blinken's trip to Israel, with a stop in Cairo, follows a visit earlier in the month by national security advisor Jake Sullivan and, reportedly, by CIA Director William Burns at about the same time.

The full-court press reflects concern over the new Israeli government, which some fear could destabilize the region.

Iran reports a drone attack on defense factory

Officials don't say who launched the strike in Isfahan, damaging a rooftop.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI — Drones attacked an Iranian defense factory in the central city of Isfahan overnight, the state-run IRNA news agency reported early Sunday.

It carried a Defense Ministry statement saying the attack occurred late Saturday and caused minor damage to a rooftop. The report said three drones were shot down by Iranian air defenses.

The ministry did not say who was suspected of carrying out the attack.

Separately, Iran's state TV said a fire broke out at an oil refinery in an industrial zone near the northwestern city of Tabriz. It said the cause was not yet known, as it showed video of firefighters trying to extinguish the blaze.

Iran and Israel have long been engaged in a shadow war that has included covert attacks on Iranian military and nuclear facilities.

Last year, Iran said an engineer was killed and another employee was wounded in an unexplained incident at the Parchin military and weapons development base east of Tehran. The ministry called it an accident, without providing further details.

Parchin is home to a military base where the United Nations' International Atomic Energy Agency has said it suspected Iran conducted tests of explosive triggers that could be used in nuclear weapons.

In April 2021, Iran blamed Israel for an attack on its underground Natanz nuclear facility that damaged its centrifuges.

Israel has not claimed responsibility for the attack, but Israeli media widely reported that Israel had orchestrated a devastating cyberattack that caused a blackout at the nuclear facility. Israeli officials rarely acknowledge operations carried out by the government's secret military units or its Mossad intelligence agency.

In 2020, Iran blamed Israel for a sophisticated attack that killed its top nuclear scientist.

Iran has maintained that its nuclear program is for purely peaceful purposes. U.S. intelligence agencies, other Western nations and the IAEA have said Iran ran an organized nuclear weapons program until 2003.

The IAEA's top official, Rafael Mariano Grossi, recently warned that Iran has enough highly enriched uranium to build "several" nuclear weapons if it chooses.

Efforts to revive a 2015 agreement with world powers that placed limits on Iran's nuclear activities ground to a halt last year.

The United States and Israel have vowed to prevent Iran from ever acquiring nuclear weapons, and neither has ruled out military action.

FOR THE RECORD

Memphis police beating: In the Jan. 28 California section, a photo caption of a group of civic leaders in Leimert Park watching a video of police officers beating Tyre Nichols in Memphis, Tenn., misspelled the first name of Lora Dene King as Laura. King is the daughter of Rodney King.

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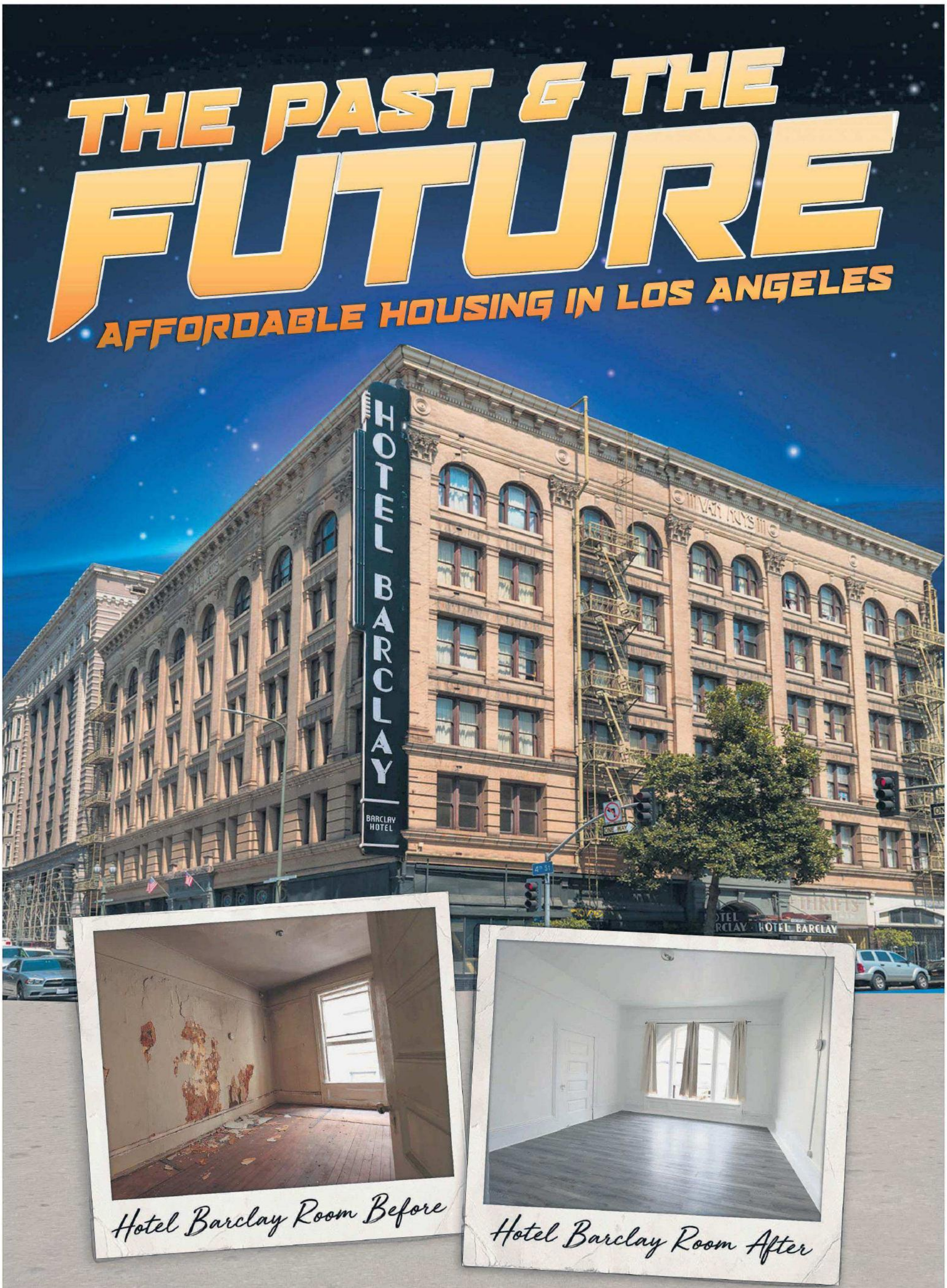
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Election-denying lawmakers take key roles

In 2 battlegrounds, Republicans oversee voting legislation after spreading 2020 lies.

By Marc Levy and Jonathan J. Cooper

Ross D. Franklin Associated Press

IN ARIZONA, GOP state Sen. Wendy Rogers, a 2020 election denier, is planning committee meetings on measures that would limit early and drive-through voting.

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Republican lawmakers who have spread election conspiracy theories and falsely claimed the 2020 presidential outcome was rigged are overseeing legislative committees charged with setting election policy in two major battleground states.

Divided governments in Pennsylvania and Arizona means that any voting restrictions those GOP legislators propose are likely to fail. Even so, their high-profile appointments give the lawmakers platforms to cast further doubt on the integrity of elections in states that will be pivotal in selecting the next president in 2024.

Awarding such plum positions to lawmakers who have repeated conspiracies and spread misinformation cuts against more than two years of evidence that there were no widespread problems or fraud in the last presidential election. It also appears to run counter to the message delivered in November's midterm elections, when voters rejected election-denying candidates running for top offices in presidential battleground states.

At the same time, many mainstream Republicans are trying to move past the lies told by former President Trump and his allies about his loss to President Biden.

"It is an issue that many Americans and many Pennsylvanians are tired of seeing litigated and relitigated over and over," said Pennsylvania state Sen. Amanda Cappalletti, the top Democrat on the committee that handles election legislation. "I think we're all ready to move on, and we see from audit after audit that our elections are secure, they are fair and that people's votes are being counted."

Multiple reviews and audits in the six battleground states where Trump disputed his loss, as well as dozens of court rejections and repeated admonishments from officials in his own administration, have underscored that the 2020 presidential results were accurate. There was no widespread fraud or manipulation of voting machines that would have altered the result.

The legislative appointments in Pennsylvania and Arizona highlight the divide between the two major parties over election law. Already this year, Democratic-controlled legislatures are moving to expand access to voting and heighten penalties for intimidating voters and election workers, while many Republican-led states are aiming to pass further restrictions, a trend that accelerated after Trump's false claims about his 2020 loss.

Democratic governors and legislative victories last fall will blunt the influence of Republicans who took steps or pushed rhetoric seeking to overturn the 2020 results.

But in Arizona and Pennsylvania, two lawmakers who dismiss the validity of that election — and other elections since then — will have key positions of influence as the majority chairs of legislative committees that oversee election legislation.

In Arizona, Republican Sen. Wendy Rogers is taking over the state Senate Elections Committee after being appointed by an ally, Senate President Warren Petersen. He was one of two lawmakers who signed subpoenas that led to Republicans' widely derided audit of the 2020 election.

Rogers, who gained a national following as she spread conspiracy theories and questioned elections, has faced repeated ethics charges for her inflammatory rhetoric, support for white supremacists and conspiracy-filled social media posts.

She now will be a main gatekeeper for election and voting bills in Arizona, where some Republican lawmakers are making election changes a top priority. Some want to eliminate early and mail voting options that are used by more than 80% of the state's voters.

Rogers has scheduled a committee meeting for Monday to consider bills that would ban unmonitored drop boxes, prohibit drive-through voting or ballot pickups, and impose what voting rights advocates say are additional burdens on early voting.

In Pennsylvania, Republican state Sen. Cris Dush has taken over as chair of the Senate State Government Committee after pushing to block the state's electoral votes from going to Biden in 2020. Dush also mounted an election investigation that he hoped would use the Arizona audit as a model.

He was appointed by the Senate's ranking Republican, President Pro Tem Kim Ward, whose office explained Dush's appointment only by saying that seniority plays a role and that members have priority requests.

In the first weeks of this year's session, Dush has moved along measures that would expand voter identification requirements and add a layer of postelection audits. Both are proposed constitutional amendments designed to bypass a governor's veto and instead go to voters for approval.

He said he also plans to develop legislation that would tighten security measures for drop boxes and ballots.

"The things that I'm doing here as chair of State Government, it's going to be things that will be conducted in a fair, impartial manner," Dush said in an interview. "You know, we've just got to make sure that we can ensure the integrity of the vote and people aren't disenfranchised."

Arizona and Pennsylvania have newly elected Democratic governors who presumably would veto hard-line GOP bills.

Democrats, county election officials and voting rights advocates in both states also want changes to election laws that, with Dush and Rogers in place, may never see the light of day.

Alex Gulotta, the Arizona director for the voting rights group All Voting is Local, said he anticipates the Legislature there will pass a lot of "bad elections bills." He said moderate Republican lawmakers who might have voted down problematic measures under a Republican governor now might let them pass because they know Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs will probably veto them.

"This is performative," Gulotta said. "This isn't substantive."

The question, he said, is whether Rogers and other Arizona lawmakers can cooperate on "small fixes" where there is consensus. That, he said, will take "real statesmanship."

Liz Avore, a senior advisor to the Voting Rights Lab, said the nonpartisan organization expects another busy period of lawmaking related to voting and elections ahead of the 2024 presidential vote, even as candidates who repeated Trump's lies about a stolen 2020 election lost bids for governor, secretary of state and attorney general in key battleground states.

Democratic and Republican-led states are often moving in opposite directions, but some bipartisan consensus has emerged around certain aspects of election law, such as restoring voting rights to felons and expanding early in-person voting, Avore said.

Republican proposals, such as expanding voter identification requirements, are popular and have majority support, as do some Democratic proposals to broaden access, said Christopher Borick, a political science professor and pollster at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pa.

But to be successful with voters, Republicans need to mind the lessons from 2022. Denying the outcomes of fair elections, he said, "is a loser for the Republican Party. Straight up."

Levy and Cooper write for the Associated Press and reported from Harrisburg and Phoenix, respectively.

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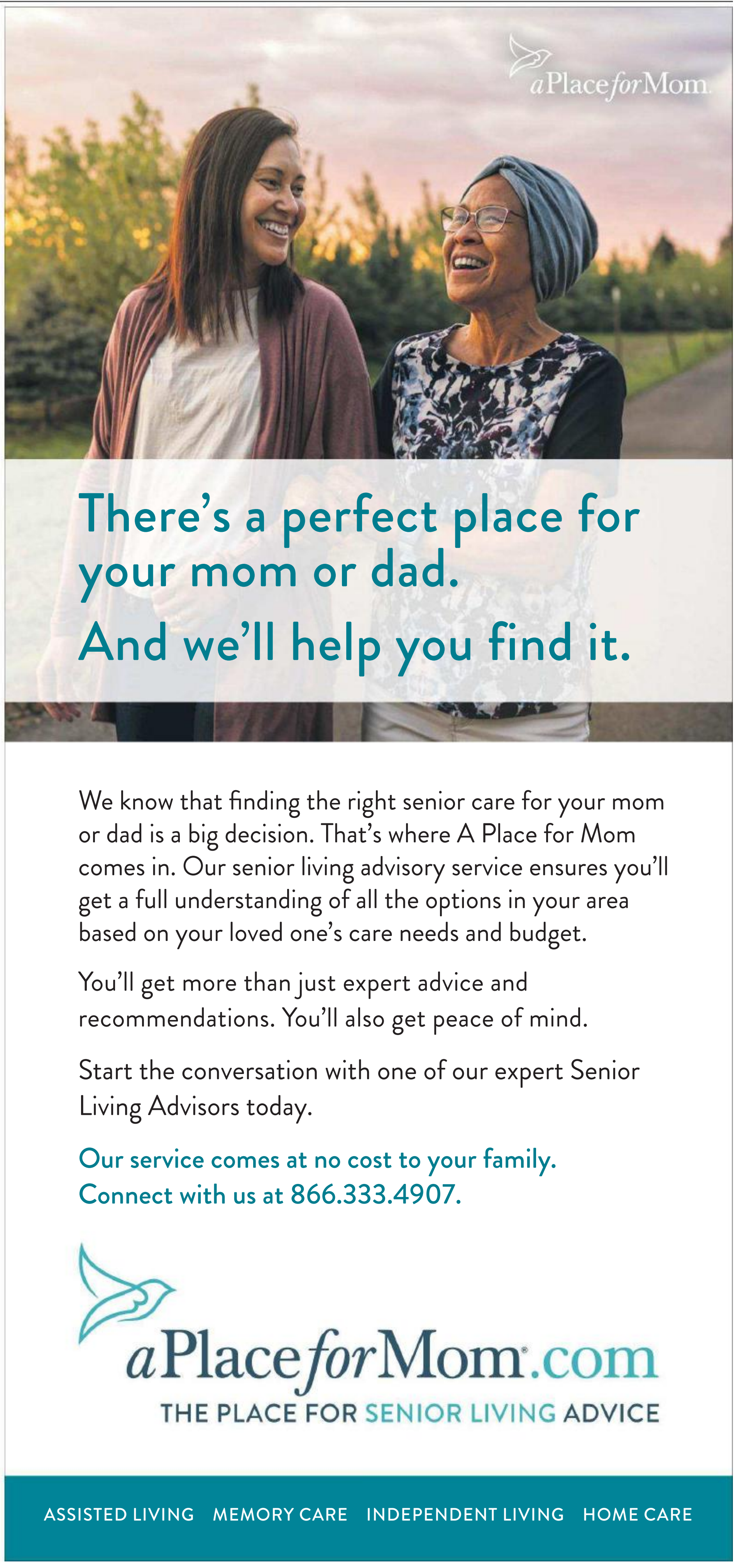

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Trump campaigns in early-voting states

By Meg Kinnard,
Holly Ramer
and Jill Colvin

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Former President Trump kicked off his 2024 White House bid with stops Saturday in early-voting states New Hampshire and South Carolina, his first campaign appearances since announcing his run more than two months ago.

"Together we will complete the unfinished business of making America great again," Trump said at an evening event in Columbia to introduce his South Carolina leadership team.

Trump and his allies hope the events in states with great influence in selecting the nominee will offer him a show of force after a sluggish start to his campaign that left many questioning his commitment.

"They said, 'He's not doing rallies, he's not campaigning. Maybe he's lost that step,' " Trump said at the New Hampshire GOP's annual meeting in Salem. He added: "I'm more angry now, and I'm more committed now than I ever was."

In South Carolina, he likewise dismissed the speculation, saying, "We have huge rallies planned, bigger than ever before."

While Trump has spent the months since he announced his run largely ensconced in his Palm Beach, Fla., estate residence and at his nearby golf course, his aides say they have been busy behind the scenes. His campaign opened a headquarters in Palm Beach and has been hiring staff. In recent weeks, backers have been reaching out to political operatives and elected officials to secure support for Trump as other Republicans are preparing candidacies.

In New Hampshire, Trump promoted his campaign agenda, including immigration and crime, and said his policies would be the opposite of those of President Biden. He cited Democrats' move to change the election calendar, moving New Hampshire from its leadoff primary spot, and accused Bide of "disgracefully trashing this beloved political tradition."

"I hope you're going to remember that during the general election," Trump told party members. He twice won the primary but lost New Hampshire each time to Democrats.

Later, in South Carolina, Trump said he planned to keep the state's primary as the "first in the South."

In his speech, he hurtled from criticism of Biden and Democrats to disparaging comments about transgender people, mockery of people promoting the use of electric stoves and electric cars, and reminiscing about efforts while president to increase oil production, strike trade deals and crack down on migration at the U.S-Mexico border.

While Trump remains the only declared 2024 presidential candidate, potential GOP rivals — including Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence and former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was Trump's ambassador to the United Nations — are expected to get campaigns underway in the coming months.

After his South Carolina speech, Trump told the Associated Press that it would be disloyal for DeSantis to oppose him in the primary.

"If he runs, that's fine. I'm way up in the polls," Trump said. "He's going to have to do what he wants to do, but he may run. I do think it would be a great act of disloyalty because, you know, I got him in. He had no chance. His political life was over."

In South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster, U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham and several members of the state's congressional delegation attended Trump's event at the State House.

Trump's team has struggled to line up support from South Carolina lawmakers, even some who have eagerly backed him before. Some have said that it is too early to make endorsements or that they are waiting to see who else enters the race. Others have said it is time for the party to move past Trump to a new generation of leadership.

Dave Wilson, president of the Christian nonprofit Palmetto Family Council, said some conservative voters may have concerns about Trump's recent comments that Republicans who opposed abortion without exceptions had cost the party in the November elections.

"It gives pause to some folks within the conservative ranks of the Republican Party as to whether or not we need the process to work itself out," said Wilson, whose group hosted Pence for a speech in 2021.

But Gerri McDaniel, who worked on Trump's 2016 campaign, rejected the idea that voters are ready to move on.

"Some of the media keep saying he's losing his support. No, he's not," she said. "It's only going to be greater than it was before, because there are so many people who are angry about what's happening in Washington."

The South Carolina event was in some ways off-brand for a onetime reality television star who favors big rallies and has tried to cultivate an outsider image.

Rallies are expensive, and Trump added financial challenges when he chose to begin his campaign in November — far earlier than many had urged. That leaves him subject to fundraising regulations and bars him from using his leadership political action committee to pay for such events, which can cost several million dollars.

Kinnard, Ramer and Colvin write for the Associated Press.

Reba Saldanha Associated Press

FORMER President Trump told New Hampshire's GOP he's "more committed" than ever to running.

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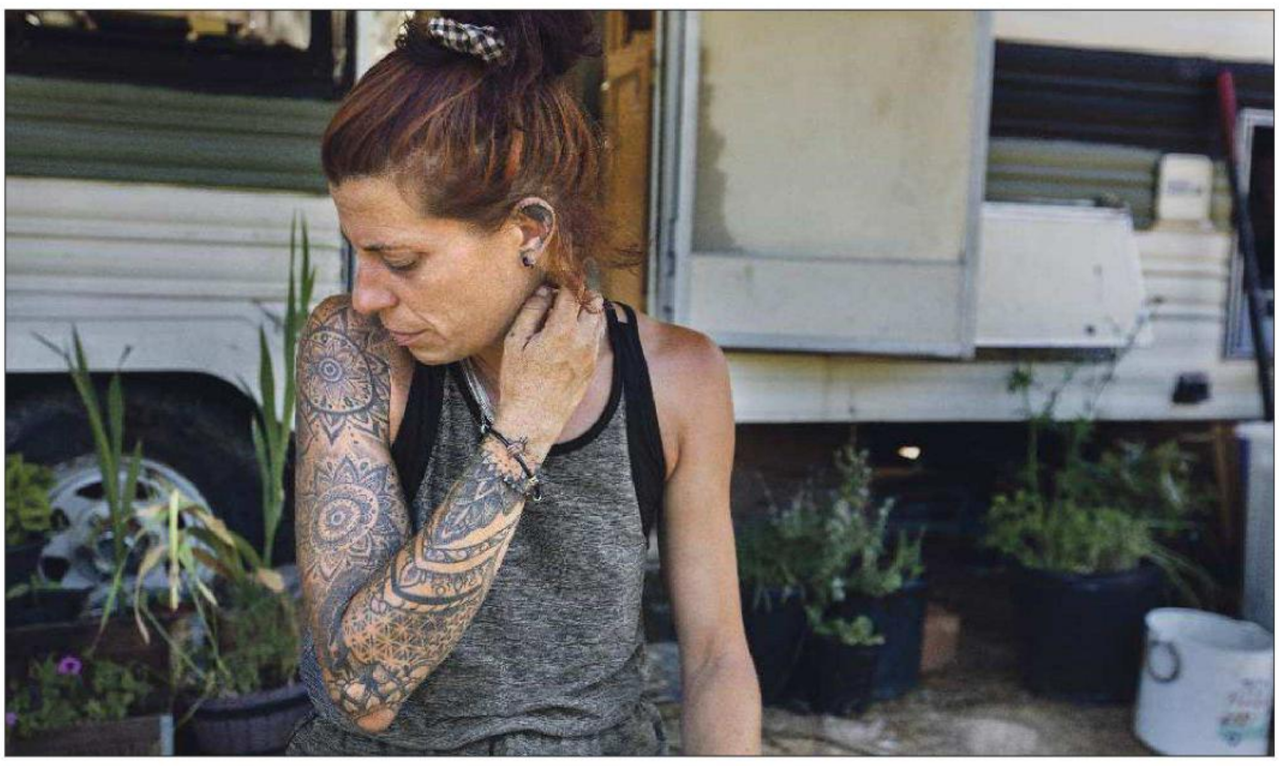
Lawmakers call for cannabis investigation



BRIAN VAN DER BRUG Los Angeles Times

EXPLOITATION of cannabis workers like Sabrina, in Mendocino County, is rampant, The Times has found.

[**Cannabis,** from A1]
this helter-skelter approach to commercializing and legalizing the cannabis industry," said Sen. Dave Cortese, a San Jose Democrat who leads the Senate Labor Committee. Cortese called California's cannabis market the "Wild, Wild West."

Cortese and Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger) said they are discussing an agenda for legislative hearings this spring on the plight of workers on all types of California farms. But they said the abuse and exploitation chronicled in The Times' investigation, "Legal Weed, Broken Promises," highlights the hazards for those who labor in cannabis fields.

Assemblymember Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park) said she intends to resurrect legislation to fight labor trafficking that was vetoed by Gov. Gavin Newsom and to include a mechanism to ensure that the state Department of Cannabis Control acts on evidence of such crimes. The Times found that the agency failed to respond to worker complaints and even to abuses uncovered by its own staff.

Assembly Labor Committee Chair Ash Kalra (D-San Jose) told The Times it is important to act now, before labor abuses become standard practice in the emergent legal cannabis industry.

The Assembly's Public Safety Committee chairman, Reggie Jones-Sawyer (D-Los Angeles), has declared himself the state's "cannabis cop." He has vowed to tackle failures highlighted by the newspaper's reporting, including farmworker fatalities and exploitation and the corruption that plagues cannabis business licensing at the city and county levels.

"People dying from harvesting or processing cannabis — it's just outrageous," Jones-Sawyer said.

He said he would seek a state investigation into licensing corruption, particularly in areas highlighted by The Times. "It's very important to me that we finally get a grip on this and start to crack down," he said.

None of the inquiries are guaranteed to happen. A corruption investigation would need approval from the Legislature's audit committee, which next meets in March. Likewise, legislative hearings on farmworker conditions have yet to be presented to Senate leadership for discussion.

A spokeswoman for California's central Labor & Workforce Development Agency said its labor safety branch was "assessing" cannabis worker deaths reported by The Times "to determine whether they have jurisdiction in each of the incidents reported."

The newspaper found that California's dual state and local cannabis licensing system created fertile ground for corruption by giving thousands of often part-time, low-paid municipal officials the power to choose winners and losers in the multimillion-dollar deals.

Local politicians held hidden financial ties to cannabis businesses even as they regulated the industry. Consultants and elected officials told of backroom lobbying and solicitations for cash — while criminal investigations were isolated and scrutiny was sporadic.

A lawmaker in October called for state Atty. Gen. Rob Bonta to form a task force that would target corruption in cannabis licensing but received no reply. Bonta's office told The Times such action would be the responsibility of the state cannabis department.

Lawmakers taking up these measures said they are particularly sensitized to the treatment of farmworkers. Hurtado is the daughter of immigrant agricultural workers. Rubio's parents first came to California as part of a federal migrant worker program, then returned without documentation because, as she said, "we still had to eat."

Some lawmakers, including Hurtado and Rubio, said the state set up its cannabis market without addressing the labor-intensive crop's reliance on easily exploited immigrant workers. For some industries — garment factories and car washes, for example — the state set up special enforcement programs and created funds to compensate exploited workers, but this has not been done for cannabis or agriculture in general.

"It's the Wild, Wild West in terms of the lack of any uniform scheme [on] how we deal with this industry," Cortese said.

Lawmakers and labor advocates said farmworkers were given little thought during behind-the-scenes negotiations for legalization. In a deal cut with labor unions, the law contained just two provisions that in reality have offered little protection: requiring large farms to give union access to workers and requiring all license holders with two or more employees to have at least two people receive generic workplace safety training.

Labor advocates told The Times they tried to warn the state about the potential for worker exploitation as the commercial cannabis market was being structured.

Because cannabis remains illegal under federal law, labor advocates in 2017 sent letters to those crafting regulation noting that workers would be unlikely to benefit from federal labor protections, putting the onus for their safety on the state.

"Lawmakers aren't really aware of the problem. It's shameful that they're not," said Christopher Sanchez, policy advocate for the Western Center on Law & Poverty. He said The Times' reporting "just highlights a lot of the fears that a lot of us had."

UCLA labor researcher Robert Chlala said legalization attracted investors who borrowed business models from the agricultural industry — a sector notorious for wage theft and abuse.

"We are just transferring what we haven't fixed yet in our agricultural system" to cannabis, he said. "What we haven't done yet to protect the people who make the food for this country."

The Times investigation documented accusations of exploitation against more than 200 cannabis operations — more than half of those licensed by the state.

Workers told reporters of bosses who threatened them with guns or physical violence, of living on remote work sites without housing or sanitary facilities or access to food, and of fraudulent promises of pay. In some cases, they said, bosses threatened to report them to immigration authorities or withhold their wages if they tried to leave.

Fraud and coercion are elements of labor trafficking, a felony offense in California. A series of 2020 reports by California's independent government watch group, the Little Hoover Commission, faulted the state for failing to have clear labor trafficking laws and for lacking a single agency responsible for prosecution.

Newsom has rejected the Legislature's keystone bills to curtail the crime.

In 2019, he vetoed a bill to gather data on labor trafficking because it wasn't introduced as part of the budget. In September 2022, he vetoed a bill to police foreign labor recruiters, echoing the same objections raised by the Chamber of Commerce and agriculture industry lobbyists.

Last fall, he rejected a unanimously passed, unopposed bill to create a labor trafficking crime unit within the state's labor department, saying he would prefer to see trafficking complaints heard by the California Civil Rights Department, which seeks civil remedies, so that victims "are not further victimized by the prosecutorial process."

Newsom's press office did not respond directly to a request for comment on The Times' findings of cannabis labor exploitation and deaths but released a statement criticizing federal immigration policy.

"Strengthening our efforts to enforce workplace standards will continue to be a priority, but it is not sufficient, especially for this vulnerable population," the statement said. "Congress needs to get up the courage to bring our country's immigration — and cannabis — policies into the 21st century."

Newsom's office issued much the same statement a day later in response to the killings of seven people Monday on produce farms in Half Moon Bay.

Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula, a Fresno Democrat who sponsored the ill-fated legislation to create a labor trafficking unit, told The Times he intends to push again this year for a criminal investigation unit within the labor department. "I believe we need a single entity that can help us to prosecute and then prevent labor trafficking in the future," Arambula said.

Sheriffs confronted with cannabis workers living in squalor, without food, pay or the ability to leave, said they lack local resources to address the problem. They said the number of workers at risk is huge: The state has tens of thousands of illegal cannabis farms spread across vast remote regions, and even licensed farms are not closely watched.

"There used to be some state support," Trinity County Sheriff Tim Saxon said, adding that the support focused on ripping out illegally grown plants, not on addressing exploitation of cannabis workers.

Saxon said he is reliant on private outside funding to investigate cases of human trafficking.

The Times investigation found little outreach to apprise cannabis workers of their rights. Those workers who knew to complain of wage theft to the California labor agency waited as long as two years for a decision, even after telling the state that their lives had been threatened. Lawmakers told The Times the labor department suffers from chronic staffing shortages, failing to fill already funded positions.

The Times investigation also found that some workers sought the help of the Department of Cannabis Control, unaware that the agency, despite having sworn law enforcement officers, had no process for handling labor abuses discovered by staff. The department did not respond to Times questions over the course of three weeks on its policies for handling allegations of labor trafficking.

Rubio said she is negotiating with Newsom's administration and Bonta's office to create a state government position for the express purpose of ensuring that cannabis labor complaints get forwarded to the right agency. She also is considering taking up the labor trafficking bills that were vetoed by Newsom.

She said it is "stunning" that lawmakers have paid so little heed to the impact of cannabis legalization on farmworkers, a group she and others said lacks strong political representation, despite California's legacy as the birthplace of the farmworkers' rights movement half a century ago.

"For my colleagues not to even be looking at it is ... shocking to me," Rubio said. "So instead of pointing fingers, my commitment is to work with the governor's office and work with the departments to make something that is doable."

News of deadly shooting shocks a quiet cul-de-sac

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

INVESTIGATORS are still searching for whoever was responsible for the gunfire that erupted Saturday at a gathering in Benedict Canyon that killed three women.

[**Shooting,** from A1]
volved other than to say the attack — during which more than 30 shots were fired — was not random. Authorities towed from the scene a white Porsche SUV and a black Mazda SUV that had bullet holes on both sides of the car and in the passenger-side window.

Los Angeles Police Department Sgt. Bruce Borihanh said the home was used for short-term rentals. Neighbors said the area in recent years has seen an influx of occupants. Several homes are listed on Airbnb and Vrbo, ranging from $600 to $7,500 a night.

"We called it a gathering, until we can interview some of the people that were here to determine exactly what kind of gathering it was," Borihanh told reporters at the scene.

Capt. Jonathan Tippet, head of LAPD's Robbery-Homicide Division, said witnesses to the shooting and people who were at the home had left before police arrived. Neighbors reported seeing several cars driving away from the scene within minutes of the gunfire.

Many neighbors woke to the sound of police helicopters circling overhead.

"Now you know why moms worry about their children when they're out late," said David's mother, who declined to give her name.

"I just feel terrible," she added, gesturing with her coffee mug toward the blocked-off street where the three victims' bodies were still in the car.

She and David live around the corner from the crime scene with David's grandmother, who has lived in the house as its original owner since the 1960s. For decades, it was a quiet neighborhood of longtime residents. In the last five years, as many of the original owners have died, many of the homes have been converted into rental properties, the women said.

"Literally, I don't even lock my car at night, it's so safe," David said. "Even people trying to find our house can't find it."

An Ellison Drive resident who declined to give her name said she was awakened by the police helicopters and assumed they were looking for suspects in some lesser crime, perhaps a robbery. Then her phone pinged a few hours later.

"My dog walker woke me up at 6:30 and said, 'Oh, my God, are you OK?' " the woman said. "Then I realized it was way more serious than someone getting their jewels stolen."

She said several houses had recently undergone renovations and appeared to have been converted to short-term rentals.

"There are some party houses up there," she said. "I've always been curious what was gonna happen up the hill."

Frank Coraci, a film director who has lived in the neighborhood for the last 20 years, said he occasionally rents out his home. He's had a tenant for the last eight months and now lives about 10 minutes away. When he heard of the shooting, he headed right over.

"It freaked us out, three people dead. I could have been walking my dog," he said.

The cul-de-sac has been home to several celebrities, Coraci said. A sleek modern mansion across the street from the murder scene is often rented out for high-end parties, he said, and house parties at rented homes were common during the COVID-19 lockdown.

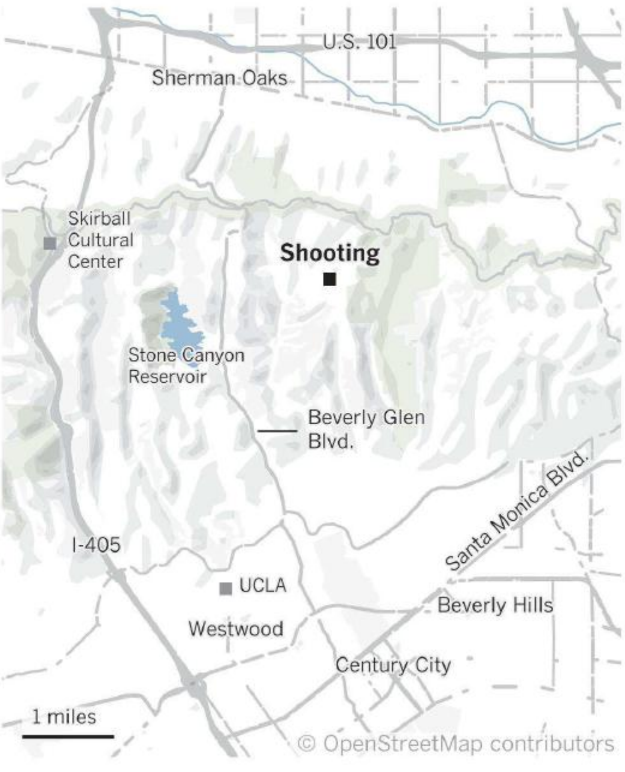
Benedict Canyon is a favorite of celebrities because it feels quiet and secluded despite being just a short drive from the city, said Joel Gilman, a retired advertising executive who bought his house in 1971 for $58,000.

"It's like you're a million miles away, except the city and the valley are a five-minute drive," Gilman said.

While Benedict Canyon once had a rustic air — some residents rode horses through the streets when Gilman moved in — the neighborhood has been transformed by investors building 10,000-square-foot homes to sell or rent, he said.

He heard nothing Friday night, neither the sounds of a party nor gunfire. Had there been a party, the sound would have been amplified through the canyon, Gilman said.

He was shocked that whoever did the shooting managed to escape, given the neighborhood's dead ends and winding roads.



PAUL DUGINSKI Los Angeles Times

Benedict Canyon has been the scene of several high-profile murders over the years, including the 1969 Manson "family" killings and the 2000 murder of Susan Berman, who was shot in the back of the head by her best friend, real estate scion Robert Durst.

But "it's really not typical," said Samantha Anobile, a real estate agent who lives down the street from the shooting scene.

One woman emerged from her house on Ellison Drive on Saturday afternoon to pick up a food delivery.

She said she had just moved into the house a day earlier. She said she did not hear any gunfire and woke up to police swarming the street.

She did not expect a shooting on her block — "I mean, in Beverly Hills?" — but said she was not particularly concerned.

"I'm from New York," she said.

Remembering the Half Moon Bay victims

By Alexandra E. Petri, Helen Li, Terry Castleman and Salvador Hernandez

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — Marciano Martinez Jimenez had lived in Half Moon Bay for 25 years and was an active member of the Oaxacan community and a father figure to many who loved him.

Ye Tao Bing was a family man and thoughtful friend who possessed incredible expertise in mushrooms, especially white button, shiitake and oyster mushroom production.

Jose Romero Perez had just arrived in Half Moon Bay a year and a half ago with big dreams and an even bigger heart.

All three men were among the seven people killed Monday after a gunman opened fire at two farms in this rural coastal community, inducting the town into a national club marked by grief and trauma and leaving families and loved ones deep in anguish as they confront the heartache that comes with loss.

The suspect in the attack, Chunli Zhao, was arrested and faces felony charges, including seven counts of murder, that could make him subject to the death penalty, authorities said.

The names of the seven people fatally shot were released Tuesday: Zhi Shen Liu, 73, of San Francisco; Marciano Martinez Jimenez, 50, of Moss Beach; Qi Zhong Cheng, 66, of Half Moon Bay; Ai Xiang Zhang, 74, of San Francisco; Jing Zhi Lu, 64, of Half Moon Bay; Ye Tao Bing, 43, of New Jersey; and Jose Romero Perez, a Mexican national.

Romero Perez's younger brother Pedro was also shot but survived, according to the San Mateo County district attorney's office. He was hospitalized and underwent surgery. As of Tuesday, he was stable, authorities said.

GABRIELLE LURIE San Francisco Chronicle

SERVANDO MARTINEZ, left, is comforted by his daughter Marisela Martinez-Maya at a community vigil Friday. Martinez's brother, Marciano Martinez Jimenez, was killed in the Half Moon Bay farm shootings.

> 'He was a good son, brother, uncle and a great friend for everyone that knew him. He took on the father role for all of us.'
>
> — Servando Martinez, brother of victim Marciano Martinez Jimenez

In a GoFundMe post organized by Martinez Jimenez's brother to help the family cover funeral expenses — including sending his remains to their hometown in Oaxaca, Mexico — Martinez Jimenez was described as a hardworking and honorable man.

"He was a good son, brother, uncle and a great friend for everyone that knew him," Servando Martinez wrote. "He took on the father role for all of us."

Martinez Jimenez worked at Concord Farms, the site of the second attack.

He was a volunteer at RotaCare, his brother said. The clinics provide free medical care to the needy. "He enjoyed giving back to his community," Martinez wrote. His brother was now in heaven along with their parents, he said.

"Marciano will always live in our hearts," he wrote.

Ana Perez, the manager at the More for Less convenience store and gas station in Half Moon Bay, knew Martinez Jimenez for more than eight years. He was quiet and kind, she said.

He frequently drove to and from Los Angeles, stopping at the gas station for a burrito and always parking his car in the same spot out back.

"He gave me mushrooms for free all the time," she said — enough that she could share them.

At the nearby Taqueria Tres Amigos, an employee who declined to give her name said Martinez Jimenez was closely connected to the local Oaxacan community. He loved to dance, she said, especially *danza de la pluma*, a traditional Oaxacan dance, and was a talented accordion player.

Ye Tao Bing was a father, husband and skilled mushroom cultivator, said a friend who spoke to The Times and wished to remain anonymous.

The two met through Bing's wife, who first came to the United States in 2016. Bing soon followed.

After several years of working with mushrooms in New Jersey, Bing temporarily relocated to Half Moon Bay in December 2021.

He lived and worked at California Terra Garden, the site of the first attack, where he was a production supervisor, his friend said.

Bing was in California most of the year, telling his friend his work schedule made traveling back to New Jersey difficult. Bing's wife flew to California for a visit in November, the friend said.

He grew up in Shandong province in China, where he spent his young adult years working as a porter before developing a passion for mushrooms and moving to South Korea.

Bing was set to travel home to China next month to visit his father, who is battling late-stage prostate cancer, his friend said. The country's COVID-19 policies and the cost of airline tickets had made previous travel difficult.

Bing is survived by his wife, a 3-year-old daughter and a 21-year-old son, who is a college student in California, the friend said.

"He was an honest, sincere and good-natured man," he said.

He described Bing as a man of few words but someone who always cared for others and could "eat bitter" — a Chinese term meaning endure hardships.

"We helped each other," he said.

Shooting victims Ai Xiang Zhang and Jing Zhi Lu were married, according to Bing's friend, and worked at the farm's cafeteria.

He would sometimes see them when he and Bing would video call each other.

Romero Perez was a respectful and hardworking person, his cousin Renato Juarez Perez wrote in a GoFundMe set up to help cover funeral expenses.

Like Martinez Jimenez, Romero Perez's remains will be transported to Mexico.

Romero Perez left his parents, wife and four children behind in Oaxaca and came to Half Moon Bay in search of work and a better life. He eventually found a job at California Terra Garden.

"Jose immigrated to this country with a great dream of working for his own family," Juarez Perez wrote. "He wanted to provide a better quality of life for all of them."

Times staff writer Luke Money contributed to this report.

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HONORING THE 11 LIVES LOST IN MONTEREY PARK

They loved to dance, sing and socialize among their tightknit community in Monterey Park. They were grandparents, aunts, fathers and friends; many were immigrants from China, Taiwan and Vietnam, all drawn together by the dance floor and the joy that filled Star Ballroom Dance Studio. ¶ But on the night of Jan. 21, a gunman changed the course of countless lives when he opened fire inside and outside the dance studio as its patrons counted down the hours to the Lunar New Year.

Ming Wei Ma, 72

Wally Skalij

Ma, a beloved manager at Star Ballroom Dance Studio, was remembered by family and friends as a pillar in the close-knit Monterey Park community and a source of humor and compassion.

He was known affectionately as Mr. Ma, according to David DuVal, an instructor at the studio. Ma had emigrated from China, where he had been part of a well-known dance group.

"He loved what he did," DuVal said.

Lily Ko, who has taken a class at Star every Tuesday for two years, recalled sneaking glimpses of Ma teaching another class, noticing his ease on the dance floor.

Whenever he spotted her group dancing, Ko said, he made a point to encourage them. Her classes ended around 10 p.m., and Ma often waited for her so she wouldn't have to walk to her car alone.

"He made sure I was safe," Ko recalled.

Qiang Bjornbak, a Rosemead lawyer, described Ma as a social connector whose death has sent shock waves through the broader San Gabriel Valley Chinese community.

"He knows so many people," Bjornbak said of Ma, describing the warm messages about him that have flooded her many WeChat groups.

He was immensely talented and kind, she said, and "super, super friendly."

A dancer at the studio, Lauren Woods, recalled her final interactions with Ma, who she said helped her find parking just hours before he was killed.

"I'm personally thankful to have that last beautiful interaction," Woods said in a Facebook post. "I'm heartbroken. To the ones who were there and so many other dancers in our community, I'm so glad you got to meet and get to know Ma and his beautiful soul. ... He was the heart of Star Ballroom."

Another woman said Ma was integral in helping her find her way in Los Angeles.

"I know Mr. Ma since I was 19-20 years old, from day one I move to L.A. I had bad English no life experiences no teaching experience as well, but he was nice and kind, give me first job, always supporting me helping me a lot," Nina Zhiting Yang wrote in a Facebook post.

Ma helped build "a community that dearly loved and respected him for his kindness and liveliness," according to a GoFundMe page set up to help with his funeral expenses.

In an interview with the Pasadena Star-News in 2016, Ma said that Star Ballroom Dance Studio was a place where people from different cultures could join one another to dance.

"I want to provide an active place for the Asian community of Monterey Park to help prolong their life and improve their health," he told the Star-News. "Having a place where people from all over the world can come together and communicate through dance is how I can help."

Mymy Nhan, 65

Tiffany Liou

Nhan's family and friends recalled her infectious cheerfulness, kind heart and ability to bring people together to dance.

One of Nhan's longtime instructors, Maksym Kapitanchuk, said her presence breathed life into both Star Ballroom Dance Studio and Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in Alhambra.

"Dance was her life," he said, adding that she attended classes every night of the week. "She was just the light of the class and the light of the studio."

Fonda Quan grew up in the same home as Nhan, who was her aunt, along with her parents and grandmother. She said Nhan immigrated to Rosemead from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in the 1980s. She had an eagerness to celebrate the wins of those in her wide circle of friends and family, Quan said.

Her nephew, Allen Nhan, remembered his aunt always checking in on everyone.

"She was always such a good supporter for all of us," he said. He remembers fondly growing up around his aunt and other family in the San Gabriel Valley area.

"She was always checking in on our progress, whether it be high school, basketball games," he said. "Or now that I have a son — it's always a constant checking up on us and seeing how we are."

For years, Mymy Nhan took classes at the Star studio. On Jan. 21, she had left early so she could put together a family shrine to pay homage to ancestors for Lunar New Year, Quan said. Before she and her partner could exit the parking lot, the gunman fired into her car, killing her. Her partner, who was in the passenger seat, wasn't shot.

"She spent so many years going to the dance studio in Monterey Park on weekends," her family said in a statement on Twitter. "It's what she loved to do. But unfairly, Saturday was her last dance."

Those who knew her as a regular at social dances knew that Nhan would sit next to the stereo system. She sipped tea between bouts of samba or tango, dance instructor Elena Krifuks said.

"She had everyone's phone numbers," Krifuks said, "and she was friends with everyone."

Diana Man Ling Tom, 70

Wally Skalij

Tom loved to dance, her family said, and was doing just that on her last night — ringing in the Lunar New Year with friends at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio.

"Diana Tom was a hard-working mother, wife and grandmother who loved to dance," her family said in a statement.

"To those who knew her, she was someone who always went out of her way to give to others," her family said. They asked that people honor her legacy by donating to the Monterey Park Lunar New Year Victims Fund, launched by the Southern California branch of Asian Americans Advancing Justice and several other organizations supporting the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

Tom was one of four patients being treated at Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center after the shooting. Her family announced she died at the hospital on Sunday.

Xiujuan Yu, 57

Family photo

In the early 2010s, Yu immigrated to the United States from China for a better life, according to a GoFundMe campaign established by her family. She was a mother of three — two of whom are pursuing degrees in sports medicine and kinesiology at California State universities.

"My aunt was in the middle of crafting that future with her husband and children, and now to have that journey suddenly interrupted is heartbreaking," Yu's niece, Kathleen Fong, wrote for the campaign. "She will never be able to witness what she dreamed of for all these years."

Yu and her husband worked odd jobs in labor-intensive fields to provide for their family.

"Personally, this still doesn't feel real. It happened all too quickly — we never even got a chance to properly say goodbye," Fong added.

Yu loved to cook, and some of her favorite recipes included soy sauce duck, soy sauce chicken and sticky rice, Fong said. Yu would often drop off food at her relatives' homes unasked and go out of her way to help family members. Because Yu knew that her father liked reading the newspaper and that he sometimes had trouble walking, she would buy him a paper and drop it off so he wouldn't have to leave home.

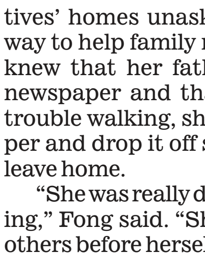
"She was really diligent and hard-working," Fong said. "She was the type to put others before herself."

Yu attended the dance hall's Lunar New Year event — her first time there — with two of her friends and had arrived shortly before the shooting began, Fong said.

One of Yu's friends went to the bathroom. When she returned, the friend found that Yu and their third friend, 63-year-old LiLan Li, had been shot.

A "night out celebrating the Lunar New Year with friends ended up being a devastating and life-changing event for my family," Fong said.

Valentino Marcos Alvero, 68



Alvero family

Alvero was remembered by family members as a "loving father, a dedicated son and brother, a grandfather who loved his three nieces and nephews like his own children."

"Please remember that Valentino is more than just a headline or a news story," the family wrote in a statement. "He loved people and hearing about their lives and, in return, he shared his own stories with so much gusto and enthusiasm that you couldn't help but listen and laugh along with him."

Alvero loved to ballroom dance and was the "life of any party," according to his family.

"We hope that he danced to his heart's content until the very end and hope that he is now dancing in heaven," they wrote.

Alvero was a Filipino American, according to the Philippine consulate general in Los Angeles, and was a devout Catholic, his family said. They called it a "great travesty" that he didn't receive his last rites, a sacrament administered before death.

"Our family would like to request all priests and Catholics to pray for him by name, Valentino Marcos Alvero," the family wrote. "He was a faithful servant of God and we know that he would want the world to lift his family in prayer more than anything."

Yu-Lun Kao, 72

Gary Coronado

Kao, a contractor known as Andy Kao, loved to dance, his brother said in an interview with The Times.

"I know that he liked to dance and he was killed dancing," said Kao's brother, who identified himself as Mr. Kao.

In a statement, the family remembered Andy Kao as a "warm-hearted, happy and kind man" who liked sports and dancing.

His family said they are devastated by the "tragic loss," and called on national and local leaders to do more than just discuss gun control.

"I am afraid that this kind of tragedy will continue to happen in the future. Will our country have a real solution to gun control in the future?" the family said in a statement.

Kao was dancing at the Star studio with his dance partner of 15 years, a woman named Shally, when the shooting began.

"Any time when I called him and said, 'Andy, I'm at the ballroom now,' he would come," said Shally, who gave only her first name. "Any hour we had time, we never wasted time. We had to come dancing. Dancing makes you happy."

On Jan. 21, Kao protected Shally by "taking the bullet for her," according to Shally's husband, Francois, who organized a GoFundMe for Kao's funeral.

Kao and his brother immigrated to the U.S. about 20 years ago from Taiwan, his brother said. Yu-Lun Kao became a contractor and sold materials to make windows and gates. He was not married and did not have any children.

But Francois said Kao was like a brother to him.

"We frequently shared a meal together as a family sharing funny stories," Francois said. "He was always there to lend an ear to listen and to put a smile on our faces. He will truly be missed."

At the dance studio, Kao was known as "Mr. Nice," for his welcoming spirit, Francois said.

"Yu Kao was a free spirit, made people laugh, and loved to dance even if it was only him on the dance floor," Francois wrote on Kao's GoFundMe page.

Hongying Jian, 62

Jian was known as Nancy to her neighbors, who said she liked to play volleyball.

"She's a very active person," said Serena Liu, 33, who lived next door to Jian. "She used to say she can make friends with anyone if she wants. She's a very nice, cute, kind person."

She liked to sing, go out dancing and play piano. She also liked to offer friends and neighbors food, Liu said.

Jian was from Sichuan province and her husband is from Shanghai, according to Liu. For years, Jian planned to go back to China to visit her mother, who is in her 90s, but she wasn't able to because of COVID-19 restrictions, Liu said.

Another neighbor, Amy De La Cruz, 31, liked to talk about plants with Jian and the two exchanged pots. Jian gave her some tomatoes; for her birthday, she gave De La Cruz a scarf.

A man answered the door for an address listed in public records under Jian's name and confirmed that his loved one passed away but declined to provide his name or to be interviewed.

"I'm very sad," he said.

Wen-Tau Yu, 64

Yu was originally from Taiwan, according to his sons — one of whom declined to be interviewed further but called his father a "private person." The elder Yu was living in the U.S. with a green card and remained a citizen of Taiwan, said Amy Wang, the director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles.

In an interview with the New York Times, a different son said that Yu had recently started school to become a pharmacist.

"He was 64 years old and retired, but he was exploring his second career," Yu's son told the New York Times. "I really admire him for that."

That son said Yu was close with his family, having just celebrated the Lunar New Year together hours before the shooting.

"When I first found out, I just could not believe it. Now, the sadness is growing," he said. He said he didn't know his father to be a dancer, but knew he had planned to meet up with friends to celebrate the upcoming holiday.

Chia Ling Yau, 76

Yau, also known as Charlie, was a "caring father, uncle, brother and friend," according to a statement from his family.

Richard Yau

His family remembered him as a happy man who believed in living life to the fullest.

"Taking every opportunity to cultivate his love of music, dance and travel, he often expressed gratitude for life and reflected upon the lessons he learned," the statement said. "He treasured his friendships, and enjoyed spending time with the people he loved."

He was supportive of family, and his son remembered him as "generous with words of love and affirmation."

Yau was a dual Taiwanese and American citizen, according to Amy Wang, the director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Los Angeles.

Yau wasn't supposed to be at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Jan. 21. He had planned to go with three friends to other Lunar New Year festivities, but they couldn't find parking, according to Niu, who had been at the dance studio that night and spoke with Yau's friends. Niu asked to be identified only by his first name.

Yau and his friends ran into Ma, the manager of the studio, in the parking lot. Ma was trying to ensure that only people who were going to the Star dance studio event parked there. But Ma recognized Yau as a regular and let him park there. The group later joined the festivities inside, Niu said.

Yau didn't survive the shooting, but his three friends did.

Muoi Dai Ung, 67

Ung was a refugee from Vietnam who found a strong and welcoming community in Monterey Park, according to a statement from her family read aloud by Monterey Park City Councilmember Thomas Wong at a public vigil Tuesday night.

"My aunt loved to dance. She also loved to eat and gamble. Sometimes, I hear, she even tried to do all three at the same time," Ung's family wrote. "Much like our community, she was complicated, messy, easy to love and sometimes hard to understand from the outside."

Though Ung didn't live in Monterey Park, she found a deep sense of kinship in the city "where the heart of the AAPI community beat strongest," her family said.

It took decades before she was able to immigrate to the United States to join other family members who had fled Vietnam in the 1970s and '80s. A daughter of Ung's migrated to a different country, and they were reunited recently for the first time in many years.

Her daughter "has come to see her mother, and now to bury her," the statement said.

The relatives said they are processing pain, grief and anger, but asked that "we move forward in the coming weeks and months as a community with love and kindness, as antidotes to the violence we have experienced."

"Our family story has echoes all over our San Gabriel Valley community. Of war, migration, loss, love, hardship, hard work, pain, and joy," Ung's family wrote. "Let us come together stronger as a family and community. Let us make sure that beyond this moment, we continue to dance and create spaces for joy."

LiLan Li, 63

Li was a grandmother who was "a pillar of strength and optimism," her daughter, Min Yi, wrote in a GoFundMe account.

She said her mother was never knocked down by life's "many twists and turns" but was tragically taken by the "untimely fate of wicked gun violence."

"Stolen is the grandmother whose granddaughter fell asleep many a night nestled in between her loving arms. Taken away from us is an opportunity for her grandson to ever feel her love and warmth," Yi wrote. "May she now rest in peace ... and stay forever in the hearts of the living."

In addition to Yi, her only daughter, Li is survived by two sisters, a brother and two grandchildren, the family said. Most of Li's family are in China, so the GoFundme fundraiser will help relatives travel to California for the funeral.

"Unfortunately an evening that should have been filled with light, love, and celebration was cut short by a mass shooting," Li's nephew wrote in the fundraiser's description. "The family is devastated by this tragic event due to senseless gun violence."

Yi thanked the community for support, prayers and kind words since the tragedy.

"The solidarity in the Asian community is strong and we will persevere," Yi wrote.

Li had gone to the Lunar New Year event at Star Ballroom Dance Studio with two friends, one being Xiujuan Yu, according to Yu's niece, Kathleen Fong.

Li and Yu were killed in the attack; their third friend survived, Fong said.

Times staff writers Summer Lin, Jonah Valdez, Rebecca Ellis, Brittny Mejia, Marisa Gerber, Hayley Smith, Julia Wick, Jeong Park, Noah Goldberg, Nathan Solis and Grace Toohey contributed to this report.

GENARO MOLINA Los Angeles Times

OSMOND WANG, 10, lights a candle at the memorial for the 11 people killed at Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park. He's taken classes there for five years.

Coping, but numb to the damage

[**Essay,** from A1]

By Monday, the tally was complete: 11 victims, six women, five men. Soon there followed the wrenching and necessary theater of news conferences and vigils and calls to action. By now, it is almost formulaic.

We have been here before, and we will be here again. Saturday's shooting in Benedict Canyon, killing three and wounding four, confirms it, and a week before Monterey Park, six people were killed in the Central Valley town of Goshen. Less than three days after Monterey Park, a gunman opened fire in Half Moon Bay, killing seven. And the urgency of these losses loosens its grip, almost dissipated by the numbers, the heartache and confusion.

The dead are dead on a scale and by such violence that defies assumptions of what life, especially life in America, is supposed to be, and the particulars — casualties, shooter profile, community impact — hardly matter. They differ only by degrees.

Gun violence has become the drumbeat of our days. We say we're shocked, but we're really not. We say we're in disbelief, yet we're really not.

"A numbing is happening," said Dr. Paul Nestadt, a professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. "The normalization of tragedy is human nature. It's called adaptive psychology: If we allowed these deaths to live in our head, we wouldn't be able to live ourselves."

Nestadt is borrowing from the work of Robert Jay Lifton, who coined the phrase "psychic numbing" after conducting research in Hiroshima in 1962 and witnessing the narrowed emotions of the 1945 atomic bombing survivors. Where feeling is a liability, psychic numbing is a reality.

Since New Year's Day, 43 mass shootings from Minnesota to Florida, from Baltimore to San Francisco, have left 78 dead and 176 injured, according to the online dashboard Gun Violence Archive, and the number rises nearly every day.

Not every incident is high-profile; arguably they should be. On the night that Huu Can Tran went on his rampage in Monterey Park, gunfire erupted in a nightclub in Baton Rouge, La., leaving 12 injured. Earlier this month in Miami Gardens, Fla., 19 people were wounded in two incidents four days apart, according to the archive.

The paradox of this bloodshed — making sense of the senseless, comprehending the incomprehensible — leads to an odd calculus. As much as we might try to meet the moral imperative of not looking away — laying wreaths in Monterey Park, for instance — we eventually turn away.

Paul Slovic, professor of psychology at the University of Oregon who studies empathy and mass casualties, has made this point in the aftermath of war, genocide and the pandemic. "Our feelings are not good at quantitative assessment," Slovic said. "As numbers increase, we become more and more insensitive."

"I don't blame people for habituation," said Dr. Jonathan Metzl, a professor of psychiatry at Vanderbilt University. "This is what happens with repetitive stress and trauma."

Metzl, who has studied and written extensively about gun violence in America, describes a sense of déjà vu, resignation, hopelessness, anger and frustration even among those so committed to ending these tragedies. Such emotions, he said, inhibit our ability to appreciate the complexity of the problem.

"Part of what happens when you feel frustrated and resigned is that you're unwilling to engage in nuance and complexity — not just with mass shooting but with American gun violence more broadly," he said. The impulse is to look for "easy causal answers, but it is never one thing."

Instead we fashion hand-lettered signs — "ban semiautomatic rifles" — and decry politicians and the gun lobby, and find ourselves caught up once again in a long debate that cannot be won.

The progression is predictable. Out of grief comes rage, an easier emotion to carry than sorrow. It drives the rhetoric. It demands an explanation as if an explanation could assuage the pain or prevent future killings.

"The deep irony," said Scott Slovic, an English professor at the University of Idaho and son of Paul Slovic and part of his father's research team, "is that we have this psychological armor, these insensitivities that have prevented us to be appropriately sensitive to the destruction around us."

In the rush to find answers and motivations, cause and effect, we progressively distance ourselves from lives that were lost, lives that parallel our own.

"We're doomed to the status quo until we develop new habits," said Scott Slovic, who argues for a broader understanding of compassion. "We can't say I am who I am and this incident in Half Moon Bay or the suburbs of Los Angeles has nothing to do with me. We have to erase our identity and leap into the circumstances of another."

In Monterey Park, they were mothers and fathers, wives, sons and brothers who watched children grow, grieved the death of a parent, sought happiness in the company of others and the pleasure of music and dance.

Some had immigrated here, leaving behind memories of war, of loss and hardship, and had found a semblance of peace, happiness, even prosperity far from their home. Through ritual and food and memories, they found their place in America and celebrated their connections with the past in a new world.

In Half Moon Bay, they were a different community, separated perhaps by just a generation from what they dreamed for. They were farmworkers, whose lives were interwoven by their jobs, struggles and the recollections of the countries and family they had left behind.

Working for a new life, they had supported one another with love and the hope of finding a future that could sustain them. By some accounts they succeeded, if the food they shared, the reunions with family, the celebrations and sorrows they weathered are any measure.

But more than words on a page, a Facebook posting or a GoFundMe campaign, their stories are a reminder of how similar we all are and that their death by gunfire could be our death as well.

Where mass shootings are concerned, there is no them and us.

Little keeps us safe from a workplace grievance, spousal or partner fury, racial vendetta.

"It is not just about a death count," Metzl said, "but the larger psychology of feeling unsafe in public spaces, which has broad implications for society."

Our days, like those of the victims, are contingent upon the assurance that they will end as they began. Anything less is a reminder that life is fleeting and precarious, and it can be cruel. Perhaps this is the truth we avoid by following familiar patterns of response that keep us in a psychological and political stalemate.

"I think our society is going to increasingly struggle with responding effectively to these mass catastrophes unless we find it within ourselves to be more compassionate, and such compassion works its way into our public policies," Scott Slovic said.

We caught a glimpse of this possibility last year when President Biden signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, strengthening background checks for young gun buyers, restricting gun ownership for domestic violence offenders and providing grants for agencies trying to enforce "red flag" laws.

"Mass shootings are a reflection of a dysfunctional political system," Metzl said. "Limiting casualties requires a functioning political system where people can negotiate for reasonable protection."

Progress will be slow and at times faltering, but the lives lost in Monterey Park, Half Moon Bay and across this ravaged country demand nothing less.

EIGHT DAYS IN CALIFORNIA.
THREE MASS SHOOTINGS.
24 DEATHS.

GOSHEN

ELADIO PARRAZ JR., 52
MARCOS PARRAZ, 19
JENNIFER ANALLA, 50
ROSA PARRAZ, 72
ALISSA PARRAZ, 16
NYCHOLAS PARRAZ, 10 MO.

MONTEREY PARK

MING WEI MA, 72
MYMY NHAN, 65
DIANA MAN LING TOM, 70
XIUJUAN YU, 57
VALENTINO MARCOS ALVERO, 68
YU-LUN KAO, 72
HONGYING JIAN, 62
WEN-TAU YU, 64
CHIA LING YAU, 76
MUOI DAI UNG, 67
LILAN LI, 63

HALF MOON BAY

MARCIANO MARTINEZ JIMENEZ, 50
ZHI SHEN LIU, 73
QI ZHONG CHENG, 66
AI XIANG ZHANG, 74
JING ZHI LU, 64
YE TAO BING, 43
JOSE ROMERO PEREZ, 38

Data scarce on the role officers' race plays

[**Policing,** from A1]

violence against racial minorities. Experts who study race, policing and use of force say diversifying can sometimes make a difference, but as the events in Memphis suggest, that may not always be the case. The limited research suggests that officers' race may matter less than many Americans might think.

"The connection between race and policing is very complicated," said Christy Lopez, a Georgetown University law professor who led the Justice Department team that investigated police in Ferguson, Mo. "There is no panacea with having Black officers."

Some experts say police violence like that against Nichols, who died in a hospital three days after his Jan. 7 beating, has less to do with officers' race and more to do with something deeply ingrained in policing as a whole.

"Here's a dirty little secret: Studies indicate that Black officers are just as brutal and at times even more brutal against Black bodies as their white counterparts," said Duane Loynes Sr., an assistant professor of urban and Africana studies at Rhodes College in Memphis, whose research focuses on the relationship between Black communities and police.

"If a system is problematic," Loynes said, "it doesn't matter who you plug into it. You will get the same result."

In one 2017 study, professors at Indiana University examined data on police shootings from the advocacy group Mapping Police Violence and a separate data set from the Washington Post. They compared the data to diversity information from police department rolls in the 100 largest cities. Then, they checked it all against broader numbers on demographics and shootings.

Their conclusion: "Increasing the proportion of the force that is Black does not appear to be an effective strategy for reducing police-involved homicides of Black citizens in most large cities."

There were caveats. The analysis looked only at shootings in 2014 and 2015. In 2014, Ferguson police shot and killed Michael Brown, setting off widespread protests and bringing law enforcement reform to the forefront of policy debates in America.

The report's conclusions focused on departments that began with smaller Black representation and increased it. At least 30% to 35% of a department would need to be Black to reach a "critical mass," researchers wrote, as "individuals may only begin to act in ways that help other minorities ... when they are empowered by a large enough number."

In the Memphis Police Department, 58% of nearly 2,000 commissioned officers are Black, 37% are white and 3% are Hispanic, according to the city government. The share of Black officers has been increasing, including by 2 percentage points since 2021. The department has a long history of a strong Black police presence and Black leadership, according to archived news articles and experts that The Times interviewed.

Lopez, who has led Justice Department investigations of policing practices in Chicago, New Orleans and Los Angeles, said that even with "majority minority" police departments, problems with police violence and race can persist.

"Yes, it does make some difference, and yes, race does matter — but the problems in policing are much bigger," she said. "Black police officers can be subject to the same stereotypes that white officers are. They can be pressured to conform, to be 'more blue than Black,' to prove they are more loyal to the badge and won't show favoritism."

'Fooling ourselves'

"When I've gone around communities in the U.S. to talk to residents about policing, they've often asked for more Black officers as a way to fix things," Lopez said. "But we're fooling ourselves if we think race is the only solution."

Experts say that faulty popular perceptions of racial dynamics in policing are only part of the issue. Another big hurdle is data.

City of Memphis, Tenn.

TYRE NICHOLS' beating by Black officers was captured on video shared by the city of Memphis, Tenn.

"The data — or lack thereof — is part of the problem in identifying patterns and solutions when it comes to race and policing," said William Sousa, a professor and director of the Center for Crime and Justice Policy at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who studies the use of force among police.

"Getting a national database of use of deadly force has been an incredibly difficult undertaking; on the federal government level it just doesn't exist," he said. "It then gets harder if you look at 'less lethal' force or look at race."

But "there is well-known data showing Black neighborhoods tend to be more policed" and that Black people are more likely to experience violent encounters with cops when compared with other racial groups, he said.

Deeper research has only started to come to light in the last decade after the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement and as government, universities and police training academies give greater attention to policing reform.

In a 2017 analysis that examined data on thousands of shootings in Houston, Los Angeles, Boston and nine other major cities, Harvard University economist Roland G. Fryer Jr. found that Black and Hispanic people were at least 50% more likely than members of other races to experience violence when they are approached by police.

What's been harder to discern in many studies has been the role of the race of officers.

Such interactions can be difficult to parse: Suspects' races are routinely recorded by police, but officers' races are not. That leaves analysts struggling with image searches, media reports, and guesswork based on names.

Because there are no comprehensive federal data on police shootings or other uses of deadly force, the work has been left to professors, journalists and activists who draw from police departments, media reports and multiple local and federal agencies to try to come to conclusions.

Sometimes, they can get it wrong.

In 2019, a study in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences analyzed police gunfire and the race of those shot using data from 2015. It found no "evidence for anti-Black or anti-Hispanic disparity in police use of force across all shootings." But in 2020, the authors retracted their study, saying they had been "careless when describing the inferences that could be made from our data."

Other research has come to different conclusions.

A 2021 analysis released in the journal Science and conducted by researchers then at UC Irvine, University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton and Columbia universities looked at 2.9 million shifts worked by nearly 7,000 Chicago police officers over a three-year period. It found that "Black and Hispanic officers make far fewer stops and arrests and they use force less often, especially against Black civilians." And the researchers found that "female officers also use less force than males ... within all racial groups."

The results, crunched using public records requests and U.S. census data from 2012 to 2015, suffered from some of the same issues as other studies, the researchers wrote. Their work had the limited scope of just one city, albeit the nation's third-biggest and one of its most diverse in population and police force makeup. The study looked specifically at low-level offenses that traditionally should be the least likely to cause an officer to make an arrest, use physical force or draw a gun.

And the authors cautioned that their conclusion that "diversity reforms can improve police treatment of minority communities" should not alone be used to generalize about potential future results of police diversity in Chicago or other parts of the nation.

A brutal beating

In Memphis, video of Nichols' encounter with police was released Friday, showing the officers beating him as he lay on the ground. The father of a 4-year-old, he can be heard calling out repeatedly, in anguished cries, for his own mother. It all happened about 80 yards from his home.

RowVaughn Wells, Nichols' mother, has said she had to stop watching the officers' body-camera videos. She has also said the race of the officers doesn't matter.

"It's not about the color of the police officer. We don't care if it's Black, white, pink, purple. What they did was wrong," she said at a news conference last week. "And what they're doing to the Black communities is wrong. We're not worried about the race of the police officer. We're worried about the conduct of the police officers."

Speaking Friday ahead of the video's release, Rodney Wells, Nichols' stepfather, said his family was "satisfied" with how quickly the officers were charged. They were fired just over a week after Nichols' death, and charged with second-degree murder and other offenses after 16 days.

"What I'm seeing here is transparency and accountability, which is something we don't always see," Brenda Goss Andrews, president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, said in an interview.

"We always look so quickly at race that we lose sight of the fact that a human has died," said Andrews, who worked 30 years as a Detroit police officer. "It seems the first thing we look at before we even determine what happened in cases like this is the race of the individuals involved."

Experts who study policing have also questioned whether race played a role in the rapid firing and charging of the officers.

Charlene Shroulote-Durán, who teaches criminal justice at New Mexico State University, said that when white officers are involved, she hears reactions such as, " 'Oh, they feared for their lives,' or 'Let's wait until we know the whole story,' or 'Let's wait until we see the video.' "

In cases with white officers, she said, "There's always this sort of pause, where they're put on administrative leave, and then there's an investigation. But here they were fired right away."

Rashawn Ray, a professor of sociology at the University of Maryland who studies race in police-civilian relations, said research has shown that Black officers are reprimanded more than white officers for similar policy violations and are less likely to be promoted.

"Maybe what needs to happen nationally," he said, "is ensuring that white officers are held to the same accountability standards as these five Black officers in Memphis."

Times staff writer Libor Jany in Memphis contributed to this report.

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Memphis police to disband ‘Scorpion’ unit

In reversal, chief cites ‘heinous actions’ of five cops charged in Tyre Nichols’ death.

By Libor Jany, Matthew Ormseth and Christopher Goffard

JUSTICE FOR TYRE

Photographs by Gerald Herbert Associated Press

PEOPLE MARCH through Memphis, Tenn., on Saturday to protest the Jan. 7 police beating of Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old FedEx worker who died days later. The five officers have been fired and charged with murder.

As sporadic crowds continued Saturday to protest the death of Tennessee motorist Tyre Nichols at the hands of law enforcement, the Memphis police chief said she would eliminate the specialized unit implicated in the beating.

The so-called Scorpion unit — officers tasked with targeting violent lawbreakers in high-crime areas — has been inactive since Nichols’ beating and arrest Jan. 7. The five officers fired and charged with second-degree murder in his death belonged to that unit.

Cerelyn “CJ” Davis, the police chief, initially told reporters that she wanted to keep the unit intact and would not scuttle it because a few officers had committed “some egregious act.”

She reversed her decision Saturday, according to a department news release, after meeting with members of the unit and “listening intently to the family of Tyre Nichols, community leaders, and the uninvolved officers who have done quality work in their assignments.”

The remaining officers of the Scorpion unit — which stands for Street Crimes Operations to Restore Peace in Our Neighborhoods — “agree unreservedly with this next step,” the release said. “While the heinous actions of a few casts a cloud of dishonor on the title SCORPION, it is imperative that we, the Memphis Police Department take proactive steps in the healing process for all impacted.”

The announcement came a day after graphic video was released of the incident that fatally injured Nichols, a 29-year-old FedEx worker. The footage stirred outrage and questions, such as why Nichols was stopped in the first place and why medical attention was not given more promptly.

After stopping his car for reasons that remain unclear, police are seen in the footage yanking Nichols from the driver’s seat, using a Taser on him, chasing him, punching him, beating him with a baton and kicking him. More than 20 minutes passed before he received medical attention. Nichols died three days later.

The five officers, who are Black, face charges that could bring them 60 years in prison if convicted.

In Memphis, the large-scale protests that some anticipated after the release of the Nichols video did not materialize. Some stores and restaurants had cut their hours in expectation of unrest, but many were open Saturday morning, as the city began to return to its normal rhythms.

MEMPHIS Police Chief Cerelyn “CJ” Davis had initially refused to disband the “Scorpion” unit.

Around 3 p.m. Saturday, roughly 200 protesters gathered under a light rain outside the city’s Public Safety Building. One after another, they took turns with a bullhorn, announcing demands: an end to pretextual stops, the dismantling of a regional gang task force, and the firing of everyone who responded to the scene, including paramedics and firefighters.

Grabbing the bullhorn, JB Smiley Jr., vice chair of the Memphis City Council, urged protesters to attend the council’s next meeting on Feb. 7.

“I’m begging each and every one of you to show up, or as we say in Memphis, pull up,” he said.

Smiley said he had already proposed an ordinance pushing for greater transparency surrounding police use of force and body cameras.

“Memphis has an opportunity to set the standard of how to respond to actions like this,” he said. “We damn sure don’t stand for beating someone down and murdering someone on the streets.”

In a press statement, Smiley also called for the firing of a sixth Memphis police officer who had been on the scene of the Nichols beating, saying the officer had used a Taser on Nichols and “compelled the other officers to stomp him.”

Marching through Memphis, protesters alternately chanted Nichols’ name and sang “We Ready,” a 2002 anthem by the late Atlanta rapper Archie Eversole that has become a mainstay at protests nationwide.

“What they did was not called for at all, period,” said Kevia Palmoore, clutching her 4-year-old daughter’s hand and struggling to keep up with the marchers. She said her real thoughts about the Nichols beating were not fit for publication.

Her fiance, Jyron Byers, said he was upset that the former officers charged with murder in the beating had been allowed to post bail.

Ryan Jackson, 25, said he was sickened by an image of one of the officers lighting a cigarette after the beating. He did not know Nichols, but said he felt a connection as a fellow Black man and skateboarder. He said he was sometimes leery when he saw police at his local skate park.

“I know when they stop and they get to asking questions, they’re gonna make it more than what it is,” he said.

Around 8 p.m. in Hollywood, about 50 demonstrators wearing black obstructed traffic at Sunset Boulevard and Vine Street. They walked west in the middle of Sunset before turning north on Cahuenga Boulevard. One person shattered several glass storefronts with a metal rod while others dropped Bird scooters and parking signs in the road.

On Vine, a person spray-painted “F— Cop City” in red on the facade of a Wells Fargo.

Several people obstructed television crews covering the demonstration, blocking the cameras and shouting into them with bullhorns.

By 8:30 p.m., the group had returned to blocking Sunset and Vine. No police car or officer was in sight.

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Colorado lawmakers look to AI to detect wildfires earlier

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DENVER — A year after the most destructive wildfire in the state’s history burned nearly 1,100 homes, Colorado lawmakers are considering joining other Western states by adopting artificial intelligence in the hopes of detecting blazes before they spread out of control.

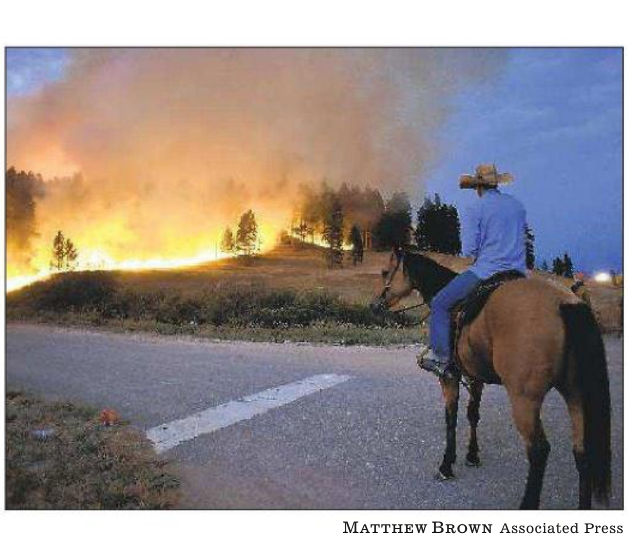
A proposal that legislators will discuss Thursday would create a $2-million pilot program to mount cameras on mountaintops in high-risk locations. An artificial intelligence program developed by a private company would analyze the images and sounds from cameras within a 10-mile radius with the aim of detecting something that could signal the start of a blaze.

It is part of an ongoing effort by firefighters to use new technology to become smarter about how they prepare and better position their resources.

Fire lookout towers once staffed by humans have largely been replaced by cameras in remote areas, many of them in high definition and armed with artificial intelligence to discern a smoke plume from morning fog.

Hundreds of such cameras are scattered across California, Nevada and Oregon, many of which send live feeds to the internet where anyone can watch them.

A historic drought and recent heat waves tied to climate change have made wildfires harder to fight in the West, and scientists say warming weather will continue to make fires more frequent and destructive. Record-breaking storms that drenched California in recent weeks and big snow dumps in other states have improved conditions in the short term, but the drought persists across most of Nevada, California and Utah, and large areas of other Western states, according to a report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



Matthew Brown Associated Press

ROWDY ALEXANDER watches from atop his horse as a hillside burns near Lame Deer, Mont., in 2021.

The goal of the Colorado program would be for cameras and an AI algorithm to detect a plume of smoke and alert first responders who can contain the blaze before it grows, said Don Coram, a GOP former state senator who first backed the idea and encouraged this year’s sponsor, Rep. Cleave Simpson, a Republican and rancher.

“Once these fires get into cresting in the treetops, it’s going to take a lot of resources, a lot of manpower, and a lot of good luck to knock them down,” Coram said.

Thursday’s hearing will include testimony from an AI wildfire detection company called Pano AI. The company began working with Colorado cities, including the ski resort town of Aspen, and has expanded to cities and counties in six states. Their stations include two cameras mounted on a high vantage point, rotating 360 degrees and connected to the company’s AI software. Each station costs roughly $50,000 every year, the company says.

Arvind Satyam, the chief commercial officer at Pano AI, said that the artificial intelligence uses a data set of more than 300 million images that teaches it what is smoke from a fire and what isn’t.

Once a camera signals that there could be a fire, the photos and information are run through the company’s intelligence center for human vetting — the algorithm could have mistaken a tractor’s dust cloud or a geyser for a smoke plume — before it’s sent along to fire agencies, he said.

AI has gained notoriety for breaking into a number of fields — from creating propaganda and disinformation to writing essays or cover letters about whatever the user requests.

Offices hope amenities bring back tenants

[**Offices,** from A1]

fice, "you need to find new ways to engage people," said Bess Wyrick, head of programming at the Water Garden for property manager CBRE.

With daily office attendance not mandatory at many companies, "It's no longer about trying to create a work-lifestyle balance," she said. "It's about creating a hybrid workplace where people are excited to come."

Hybrid work patterns have spread widely since the pandemic shutdown of 2020. As companies bring workers back together, many have reduced the number of days their employees are required to be in the office, creating flexible combinations of office days and remote work days.

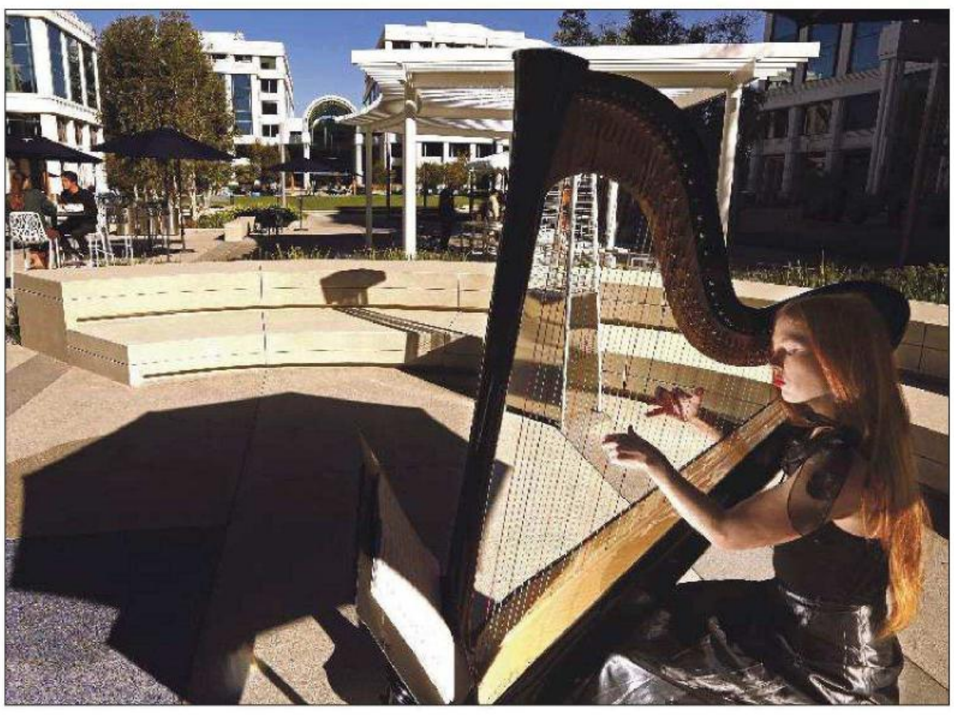
Cosmetic company L'Oréal Group demands that employees work in the office at least three times a week, on days of their choosing. L'Oréal sweetens the office experience with such comforts as a fitness center, restaurant, juice cafe and a cabana-like bar that serves coffee drinks and, depending on the occasion, alcohol.

Disney Chief Executive Bob Iger recently announced that employees working from home must return to the office Monday through Thursday starting March 1. Fridays are typically the least populated days for offices, research shows, and while most employees toil at home that day, a few companies are taking them off the business calendar altogether and working 32 hours a week.

Landlords are also keen to make offices appealing so tenants will keep renting space in their buildings.

The campus-like Water Garden was a dreary place after being devoid of occupants during the worst of the pandemic, Wyrick said. While they were gone, nearby businesses and restaurants failed or left for other reasons.

"The area was a ghost town," she said.



Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

HARPIST Pheobe Madison Schrafft plays a tune as workers take a lunch break in the courtyard of the Water Garden office complex in Santa Monica last month.

Wyrick's first move was to arrange performances by local musicians and dancers in the courtyard.

> 'The goal is to get people to feel like they want to come back to work and come back to the building, and having them leave happy.'
>
> — Melanie Navas, tenant experience manager

Among the complex's biggest tenants are retailer Amazon and technology firm Oracle.

One of Wyrick's goals was to make the Water Garden a place people wanted to visit, including neighbors who could walk over to take in a midday concert or see pieces by local artists displayed for sale in the lobbies of the four office buildings. Getting a buzz of life into the campus could help address a common chicken-and-egg complaint about going back to the office — people don't want to go there if other people aren't around.

Paying performers to appear, serving free food to tenants at holiday soirees and hosting other events are part of a marketing strategy to get the property occupied, she said.

"We will lose money in the beginning," she said, "but it drives people to put roots in the space."

The key measure of success is leasing, and Water Garden has added tenants over the past 12 months. Its 1.4 million square feet of rental space is 86% leased, up from 72% a year ago, Wyrick said.

One of her leaps to enliven the place was to agree to an unusually short lease with a well-known dance company for an expansive first-floor space last occupied by a furniture showroom. In exchange, Jacob Jonas The Company agreed to engage with other tenants through free classes, performances and other events.

The nonprofit dance company has performed at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center and the Hollywood Bowl, as well as with such musical artists as Rosalia, Sia, Elton John and Britney Spears.

For years, the company was based in the Wallace Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills. The chance to dance in a working office complex built to the buttoned-down tastes of 1990s business executives holds special appeal to company founder Jacob Jonas, a Santa Monica native who got his start as a street performer on the Venice boardwalk at age 13.

"Our neighbors are some of the leading corporations in our country. There's something really validating about that and sharing our work," he said. "When you have people working behind a desk from 9 to 5 and then being able to expose them to creativity and expose them to art in such a unique setting, that crossover is rather beautiful."

Workers and visitors at the Water Garden can take workshops in floral design, see weekly comedy shows and attend movie nights.

Nearly a fifth of the L.A. County's office space was unleased at the end of last year, according to CBRE, and more empty space may hit the market soon as tenants hoping to save money try to sublease unwanted space due to concerns of a constricting economy and potential layoffs. Some are reducing their space because their employees are working remotely.

"The general consensus among most economists is we're heading into a recession," said Bradford Ortlund, a research manager at CBRE. Many companies are declining to expand their offices or reducing space as they wait for the economic picture to come into focus.

The nature of upmarket offices was already shifting before the pandemic as many landlords toned down the dramatic formality of their entrances, originally intended to confer status and trustworthiness on the companies inside. As aloofness fell out of favor, owners set out to make their lobbies and courtyards places to linger and enjoy rather than simply pass through in awe.

Their desire to get people who have been working remotely back into offices makes hotel-like hospitality freshly valuable, said the owners of U.S. Bank Tower, the tallest office building in Los Angeles, at 72 stories.

It was built to be an imposing corporate cathedral in 1989, but landlord Silverstein Properties is close to completing a $60-million makeover intended to make it feel more like a laid-back hotel where tenants and visitors are invited to kick back. The lobby will include a cocktail and juice bar, a coffee bar, a grab-and-go market of packaged foods, communal tables, a large lounge with plush seating and cabanas to add a resort flair.

Staff will focus on hospitality, said tenant experience manager Melanie Navas. People's names and birthdays are to be remembered. The 54th floor is a tenants-only lounge with a coffee bar and weekly breakfast spreads to help inspire a sense of community. There are yoga classes at the gym on the 57th floor with views of the city.

"The goal is to get people to feel like they want to come back to work and come back to the building," she said, "and having them leave happy."

Art is a priority for Brookfield Properties, the largest owner of office space in downtown L.A., which has a longstanding program of engagement with tenants. Permanent and rotating art displays are pleasant — and good for occupancy, said Bert Dezzutti, head of the western region.

"Younger workers are more likely to return to the office if they are around art," he said, citing a survey Brookfield commissioned in the United Kingdom last year that found that art and cultural activities improve a sense of well-being and make workers more productive at the office.

"One positive that has emerged from the tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic is a new focus on what makes a 'happy' workplace," the survey report said.

Findings suggest that workers want to work in spaces enriched by art, culture and wellness, which they believe promote creativity and contentment.

"The offices of the future must be more than machines for working in," the report said, "they must cater to the rich inner life that we all possess."

One youth-friendly program Brookfield puts on in L.A. is an annual music festival that follows the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival. Acts from the popular desert concert series appear after work on four August nights at a Brookfield office and retail complex near Crypto.com Arena.

Musicians from the Colburn School perform acoustic sets at another Brookfield property. There are DJ concerts open to all and wellness events for tenants that include skin care classes and meditative sound baths.

"We're creating opportunities for people to interact," Dezzutti said. "It's all about engagement."

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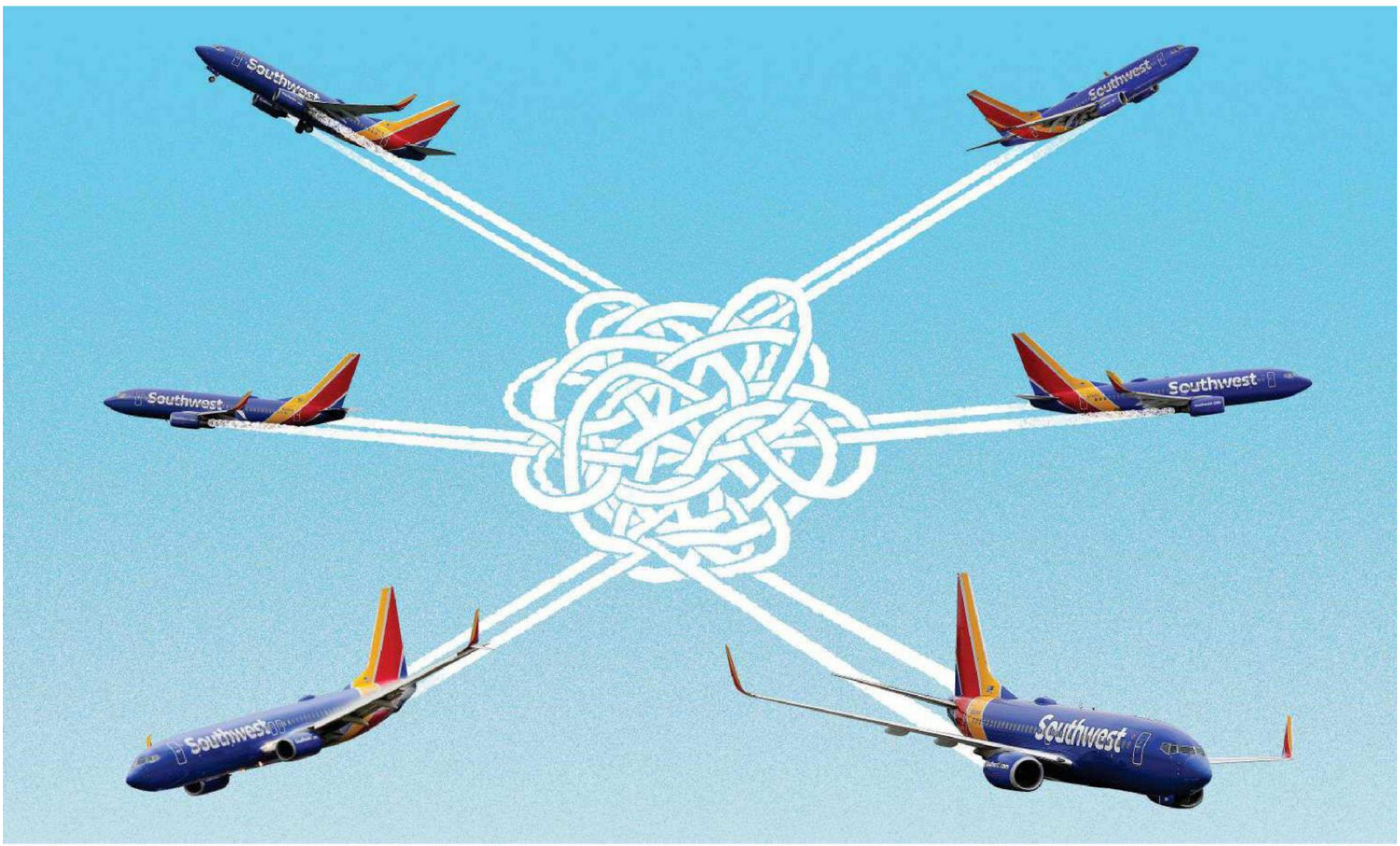


Illustration by JIM COOKE Los Angeles Times; photographs by HOWARD LIPIN AND K.C. ALFRED San Diego Union-Tribune

SOUTHWEST'S TANGLED TROUBLES

After December debacle, carrier works on IT, reputation. Experts see travel disruptions continuing

By Samantha Masunaga, Katie Licari and Vanessa Martínez

How Southwest's model led to a domino effect of failures

Southwest Airlines' point-to-point system makes more direct flight options possible. But when extreme weather shut down many flights across the country, Southwest planes and crew were left stranded. Meanwhile, the "hub-and-spoke" model used by American Airlines, and most others, allowed the airline to recover more quickly.

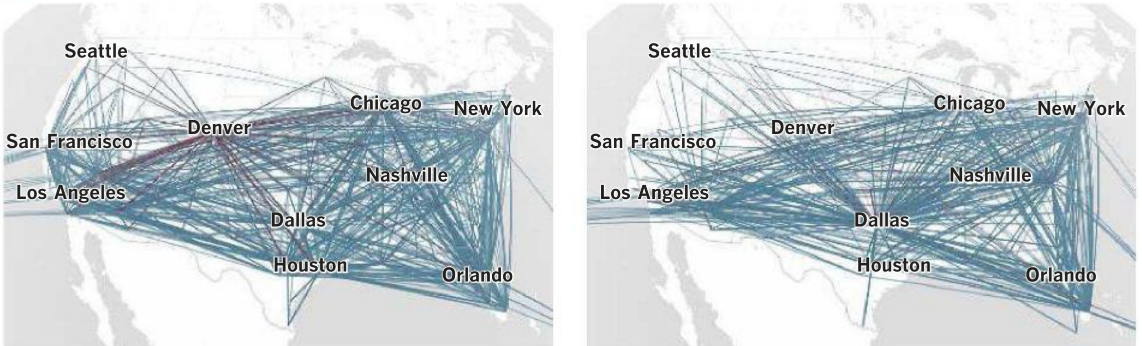
Southwest Airlines

Dec. 21: 3.6% canceled
Ahead of the storm, the airline canceled more than 130 flights, 49 of which would have originated in Denver.

— Not canceled --- Canceled

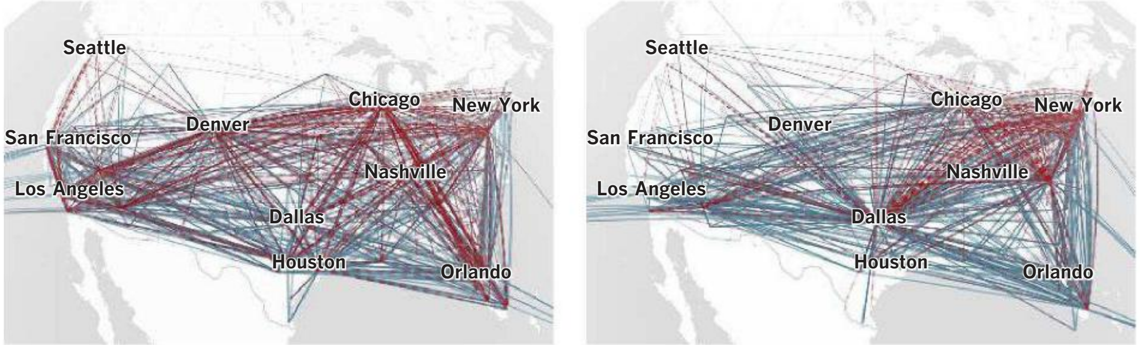
American Airlines

Dec. 21: 1.9% canceled
Cancellations picked up, slightly affecting outbound flights at Dallas Fort Worth International Airport.



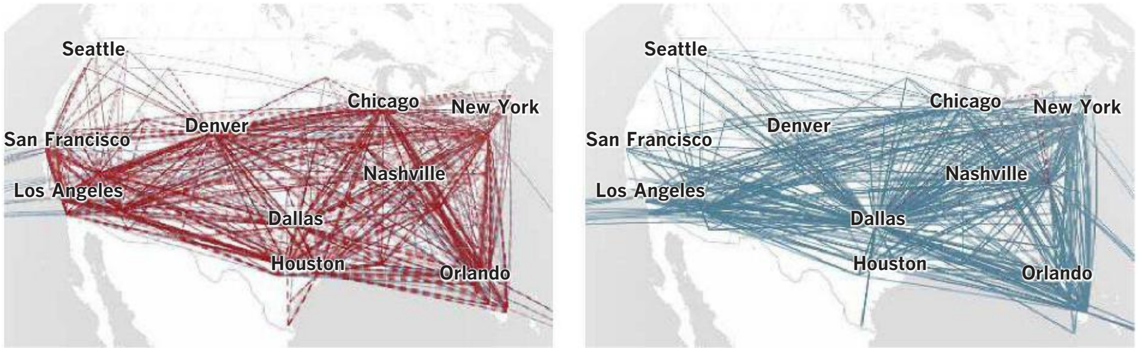
Dec. 23: 34.6% canceled
Cancellations surpassed that of American. Chicago Midway International Airport had more than 140 flights canceled.

Dec. 23: 30.9% canceled
Cancellations continued to affect travelers in the Midwest and along the East Coast.



Dec. 26: 76.2% canceled
The airline reached the peak of its cancellations, continuing to disrupt travel throughout the country.

Dec. 26: 2.1% canceled
American mostly recovered from storm-related cancellations. Buffalo Niagara International Airport remained impacted.



Flightradar24. Flights are mapped according to local time at originating airports. © Mapbox, © OpenStreetMap

KATIE LICARI AND VANESSA MARTÍNEZ Los Angeles Times

Thousands of canceled flights. Countless separated bags. Millions of angry passengers.

Southwest Airlines' costly holiday meltdown highlighted how quickly airline operations can go off the rails, particularly when you add bad weather to the complex calculation of how to get crews on the right planes at the right time.

The Dallas-based airline has pledged to do better. Southwest's chief executive said the company would invest more than $1 billion to upgrade its IT system, and on Thursday during the first quarterly investor call since the fiasco, company executives spent significant time pledging that the year-end failures would not be repeated.

In all, the company canceled more than 16,700 flights, sharply more than other airlines, which recovered faster from the multistate storms than Southwest did.

"We disrupted thousands and thousands of customers at a critical point in time," Southwest Chief Executive Bob Jordan said during the call. "I can't apologize enough for that. I own that, and we will do everything it takes to make sure we don't have an event like that again."

But as climate change continues to make once-extreme weather events more routine, and airlines pack more passengers onto planes to increase efficiency and lower prices, a single disruption can throw the whole air travel system into chaos.

"It's a commodity where everyone can fly and most people do," said Ernest Arvai, president and co-founder of AirInsight, an aviation news and consulting site. "But if something goes wrong, there's not enough slack left in the system to accommodate everyone quickly."

Southwest is paying dearly for the December disaster.

The company said Thursday that an $800-million financial hit from the episode caused a net loss of $220 million for the last three months of 2022. Some travelers have since been avoiding the airline, decisions that will cause another loss in the first quarter of this year, Jordan said. The company expects that things will turn around by March.

"There are things we need to work on as we continue to grow this operation," he said during the call.

Though much maligned as a major factor in the carrier's slow recovery from weather-related flight cancellations, Southwest's unique point-to-point system is a way for the airline to set itself apart in a competitive marketplace.

Flying from one destination to another, rather than through the traditional hub-and-spoke network used by many large airlines, allows Southwest to offer nonstop flights to many locations throughout the United States that aren't being served with direct flights by other major airlines, said Laurie Garrow, professor and aviation expert at Georgia Tech.

The lack of hubs also means Southwest can spread out its labor costs instead of needing large numbers of employees during peak times at locations where many planes arrive at the same time. If a location has less demand than expected, it's easier to move planes than relocate an entire hub.

However, the hub-and-spoke network is more resilient because there are more pilots and crew members in a single location. If something happens with one flight, there are crew members and planes nearby to help with a faster recovery.

In Southwest's case, the complexity of its point-to-point system crashed into the antiquity of its crew scheduling system, leaving the carrier struggling longer than other airlines to return to normal operations, Southwest's pilots union and aviation experts said.

The Southwest Airlines Pilots Assn. said the processes used by the airline to connect crews with planes have eroded over the years, leaving pilots stranded in hotel rooms or being shuttled via other passenger flights to their destination even in the best of times.

"We are a very complex network," said Capt. Casey Murray, president of the Southwest pilots union. "It's much more difficult not only to manage but recover."

Though the point-to-point network is the "magic that has allowed Southwest to succeed" and grow, Murray said the company hasn't invested in the infrastructure or processes to make it more resilient to major disruptions.

Southwest officials said Thursday that a fix to the crew scheduling software is being tested now and that better communication with crews is being discussed in ongoing union negotiations.

A Times analysis of the late-December performance of Southwest and American Airlines, the nation's largest carrier, showed that before the storms on Dec. 18, Southwest had a lower cancellation rate (0.05%) than American (1.18%).

By Dec. 23, as ferocious and deadly winter storms hit a large part of the nation, Southwest's cancellation rate hit 34.63% while American was at 30.91%. That was the highest cancellation rate for American — after that, the airline largely recovered.

But Southwest's cancellations kept climbing to a high of 76.22% on Dec. 26, long after the major inclement weather had passed. Southwest continued to cancel over 50% of its flights until the rate suddenly dropped to 1% on Dec. 30.

During the meltdown, Southwest also was forced to fly more than 700 nonpassenger flights to reposition crew and planes.

"We can't continue to be unreliable and not provide our customers with a sense of that reliability," Murray said. "The future of Southwest Airlines is at stake."

And that future may not be up to just Southwest.

Shortly after the December debacle, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced it was looking into the incident. In a statement to The Times on Wednesday, a department spokesperson said the agency is in the "initial phase of a rigorous and comprehensive investigation," and that the department has made clear to the airline it will face consequences if it doesn't make timely refunds and reimbursements to customers.

The Transportation Department is also looking into whether Southwest executives "engaged in unrealistic scheduling of flights" — meaning the carrier had scheduled more flights than it could possibly have handled under the circumstances — which is considered an unfair and deceptive practice under federal law, the spokesperson said.

On Thursday, Southwest officials said that they will cooperate fully with the investigation and that the airline's recent on-time performance and reliability show that the airline's schedule is viable.

Southwest's stated effort to fix its problems with new software and systems is a good step, but it can't happen instantaneously, said Arvai of AirInsight.

"All we need is one giant storm, and will we have a repeat of what happened a few weeks ago?" he said.

In the future, Southwest may want to cancel more flights ahead of poor weather to prevent the domino effect that happened this time, said Garrow of Georgia Tech.

"Making some of the long-term infrastructure investments will help, but I think the real test is if you're able to get your operational performance back up to the level of your competitors," she said.

But the narrow margin for error across the airline industry means that Southwest will not be the last airline to face extreme disruption. Fuller planes mean fewer open seats to accommodate passengers.

"The problem is, when disruption happens, how big is the disruption and how quickly can the airline come back with minimal cancellations, minimal delays and get back to normal operations?" said Ahmed Abdelghany, associate dean for research at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "At this level, we don't have a way to completely eliminate this problem from the system."

MONEY TALK

No need to have a 'perfect' credit score

By Liz Weston

Dear Liz: My credit score fluctuates between 799 and 815. I always pay my bills on time and keep the credit utilization low. The only comment I can find about why my credit score isn't higher is that I lack a loan. Is there anything I can do to get the score closer to 850?

Answer: Possibly, but there's no point in having a "perfect" credit score. By the time your scores are in the mid-700 range, you're typically getting the best rates and terms.

If you're determined to get higher scores, consider using even less of your available credit. Top scorers typically use less than 10% of the credit limits on their cards. One way to reduce utilization can be making a payment right before the statement closes. Be sure to pay off any remaining balance before the due date.

Surviving spouse's home sale gains

Dear Liz: If a surviving spouse is selling the couple's longtime home, are there any special provisions on the long-term capital gains?

Answer: When one spouse dies, their half of the home gets a new value for tax purposes. The value is "stepped up" to the current market value, so that the appreciation that happened on that half of the property is no longer taxable.

Let's say that a couple bought a home for $100,000 and that it was worth $250,000 when the first spouse died. In most states, the tax basis — what's subtracted from the net sales price to determine potentially taxable capital gains — would rise from the original $100,000 to $175,000.

The surviving spouse's basis would remain at $50,000 while the deceased's half would be stepped up to $125,000 (half the $250,000 value). If the home was sold for $250,000, there would be $75,000 of potentially taxable capital gain.

In community property states — which include California — the home's basis would get a double step-up to $250,000. If the home was sold for $250,000, there would be no potentially taxable capital gain.

Even if there is a gain from the sale, a single person can exclude up to $250,000 of home sale capital gains from their income as long as they owned and lived in the home at least two of the previous five years. Couples can exclude up to $500,000.

However, widows and widowers who sell their homes within two years of their spouse's death can take the full $500,000 exclusion.

Social Security survivor benefit

Dear Liz: When you discuss a survivor receiving 50% of their spouse's Social Security benefit, are you basing the 50% on gross or net income?

Answer: The survivor benefit is up to 100% of what the deceased spouse or ex-spouse was receiving from Social Security, before taxes. If the spouse or ex starts Social Security early, that reduces the potential survivor benefit. If the spouse or ex delays Social Security beyond full retirement age, that can increase the benefit.

Spousal benefits, by contrast, are paid when the spouse or ex is alive. Spousal benefits can be up to 50% of what the spouse or ex would receive at full retirement age.

Liz Weston, Certified Financial Planner, is a personal finance columnist for NerdWallet. Questions may be sent to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon, No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or by using the "Contact" form at asklizweston.com.

PERSONAL FINANCE

Climate-friendly rebates won't be available till 2024

By Todd Woody

For Americans with a New Year's resolution to trade in their gas furnace or water heater for climate-friendly heat pumps, a word of caution: Generous Inflation Reduction Act rebates for home electrification took effect on Jan. 1, but they won't actually be available to homeowners until year's end or 2024 at the earliest, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

That's because the Biden administration is distributing $4.3 billion in home electrification rebates through state energy offices. In other words, 50 different programs need to be designed and implemented so that they comply with federal regulations, which reserve the incentives for families earning up to 150% of their area's median household income.

The good news is that rebates worth up to $14,000 to slash the cost of decarbonizing a home are expected to be available for years to come, at least until the budget runs out.

The bad news is that if your fossil-fuel furnace or water heater fails before state programs are up and running, the rebates won't be retroactive.

"Given that states must establish programs that ensure compliance with the law (e.g., eligibility of household, technology, program reporting), it will be difficult to offer rebates for projects completed before program requirements are fully defined and programs are in place," the Energy Department's Office of State and Community Energy Programs says on its website.

The Inflation Reduction Act also includes a $2,000 federal tax credit for heat pumps, which can be taken now. Some states and utilities also offer their own rebates.

But the full implementation of various programs to encourage adoption of green technology is still being ironed out, including tax credits for electric vehicles and rebates for home efficiency upgrades. A 30% tax credit for residential solar and battery storage systems is in effect.

When it comes to the Inflation Reduction Act's home electrification program, the rebates can be significant.

They include an $8,000 rebate for heat pumps that can warm and cool homes, an amount that could cover roughly half the installation costs of some systems. There's also a $1,750 rebate for heat pump water heaters, $840 cash back for induction stoves and heat pump clothes dryers and $4,000 for electrical system upgrades.

The federal government wants the rebates to be deducted from the price of heat pumps and other high-efficiency electric appliances at the time of sale.

Getting a substantial instant discount would simplify electrification for homeowners and widen its appeal. But that means a system must be put in place for a contractor, a state energy office or another entity to verify that a buyer's income qualifies for the incentives.

On Jan. 18, the Energy Department issued a request for information to the states, soliciting their input on federal guidelines for designing state programs to distribute the rebates. This summer, the agency will issue those guidelines; then states must submit their proposed programs for approval. The law gives states until August 2024 to start handing out the rebates or lose the funding.

The Energy Department did not respond to interview requests.

California, the nation's largest market for heat pumps and heat pump water heaters, is just beginning a lengthy undertaking to establish its own Inflation Reduction Act rebate program, a procedure that includes holding public workshops.

"The process for distributing … rebates in California has not yet been determined," the California Energy Commission said in a statement. "Rebates are anticipated to be available to consumers in 2024."

Woody writes for Bloomberg.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

EV sales are zooming. Too bad they're mostly Teslas

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

TESLAS at a charging station.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a sign that California's transition to zero-emission transportation is well underway, you'll be encouraged by the state's latest sales numbers for electric cars.

They show that 18.8% of new vehicle sales — nearly 1 in 5 — were zero-emission in 2022. That's a big jump from 12.4% the year before, and a more than a doubling of sales in just two years. Excluding plug-in hybrid vehicles, which run on a gas engine and a battery, about 16% of new sales in California are now fully electric, far exceeding the nationwide rate of 5.8%.

That sales are picking up after years of puttering along in the single digits is unquestionably good news for California's fight against climate change and air pollution. They show a promising trajectory for the state's first-in-the-nation rules, adopted last year, to phase out sales of new gas-fueled automobiles by 2035.

But look under the hood and you'll see the stubborn, underlying reality: The majority of new electric vehicles sold were higher-end models that remain unaffordable to most Californians. More than 70% of fully electric vehicles sold in California last year were Teslas, as has been the case each year since 2018.

The fact that California's electric vehicle market remains dominated by Teslas and other vehicles dealers classify as luxury and near-luxury is evidence of a socioeconomic divide that remains a barrier to California's push to replace polluting, fossil-fueled vehicles with electric models powered by clean, renewable energy.

The 2022 sales figures indicate the most popular electric models remain significantly more expensive than the bestselling gas-powered ones. Tesla's Model 3 and Model Y are California's top two bestselling EVs. Even with recent price cuts, you can expect to pay at least $45,000 for a Model 3, while the Model Y goes for about $54,000 and up.

Compare that to the Toyota Camry, one of California's top-selling gas-powered cars, with a price tag starting at around $27,000. That's in line with nationwide figures showing electric vehicles sell, on average, for about $17,000 more than gas-powered ones.

There are lower-priced electric vehicles, such as the Chevrolet Bolt and Nissan Leaf, which can be purchased for less than $30,000. But those models sold fewer than 17,000 vehicles combined in California last year, though not because buyers weren't interested.

Supply chain constraints and limited production of these models reduced inventories, drove up prices and discouraged would-be buyers.

"There is a demand for less expensive models, but automakers are being cautious because it's a new technology," said Edmunds analyst Jessica Caldwell. But those supply chain issues are easing and dealer markups above sticker price are starting to come back down, she said.

Officials with the California Energy Commission, which released the sales data, said the 2022 numbers also show Ford, Chevrolet, Hyundai and Kia are making inroads against Tesla, and that they are planning a wider selection of affordable models in the coming years, which will be good for competition. The new electric cars being sold today will be available at lower cost on the used market in the coming years, and will eventually get into the hands of lower-income people, they said.

But Californians in the low-income communities hit hardest by dirty air need the benefits of electric vehicles the most and shouldn't have to wait years for them to trickle down. Zero-emission cars don't only provide cleaner air, but also economic advantages, including lower fuel and maintenance costs compared with gas-fueled cars.

But for now, their distribution remains highly uneven. A Sacramento Bee analysis last year found that electric cars were more than 15 times as prevalent in the state's wealthiest ZIP Codes than in the poorest.

To be fair, California has recognized this environmental injustice and offers incentives of up to $9,500 toward the purchase of an electric car, such as the Clean Vehicle Rebate Program and Clean Cars 4 All, that include income limits to help disadvantaged residents. But these programs have been plagued by insufficient and uneven funding and long waiting lists, and are far too difficult for most Californians to navigate. Furthermore, California's zero-emission vehicle incentive programs are facing a $1.1-billion reduction next fiscal year due to a projected $22.5-billion budget deficit.

New federal tax credits for EVs in the Inflation Reduction Act may help increase sales among middle- and lower-income Californians, but state regulators should not count on that. They must act more aggressively to ensure that electric vehicles are available to motorists of all income levels through car-sharing programs, easier-to-use subsidies and building charging stations accessible to apartment renters and others who don't have a way to charge at home.

Transportation accounts for about half of California's greenhouse gas pollution, and we need to switch to electric vehicles as quickly as possible to meet our climate targets. But that transition will be unjust and unattainable as long as they remain an out-of-reach luxury for most people.

PERSONAL NOTE

Is that a van? Or a home? L.A.'s homeless count returns

Plagued by questions about accuracy in 2022, the annual tally is back — and hopefully better.

THE MAN SITS at the bus stop, the glow from his cigarette visible in the dark. It's 10 p.m. Is he homeless … or waiting for a bus? Or both?

Our three-person team of volunteers on the second night of the 2023 point-in-time count of unhoused people in Los Angeles County will make numerous calls like this for the two-plus hours that we drive the streets of the census tract in Inglewood that we were assigned to count. Rarely do I feel certain it was the right decision.

"Maybe we could ask him if he's homeless," I say, only half-joking as we drive past the bus shelter bench a second time.

No one in the car thinks that's a good idea. As volunteers left the deployment center Wednesday evening, the coordinator, Cinder Eller-Kimbell, had instructed us not to shine our flashlights in the eyes of homeless people or talk to them. I had heard the same the previous six times I embarked on this count. And what would he have said anyway? "Why, yes, I *am* homeless."

The count is neither perfect nor scientific. But it is required by the federal housing department and provides some useful data.

The annual count, which is organized by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), sends out thousands of eager volunteers across the county over three nights to scan the landscape for homeless people as well as tents and vehicles where unhoused people might be living. The Homeless Services Authority also did a tally of the number of people in shelters on Wednesday.

Everyone in my group has done this before. So we have all sat through various training sessions and videos. JC Cangilla, who lives in Ladera Heights and is a father of two young children, is driving. He gets to see a different neighborhood when he does this and he wants to do something to help. "I think it's a housing problem," he says.

We head down wide streets with tall palm trees. Overhead in the clear sky, Jupiter perches right above the crescent moon. We see no one except a man walking his dog. On we go to a commercial area.

"There's a gentleman on a bike," Cangilla says. The man is rooting through a trash can for recyclables. Plastic bags dangle from the handlebars of his bike. We debate whether we think he is homeless and slowly drive by for a closer look. We try to be low-key but he notices us looking. He wears baggy trousers and a baggy shirt. We record him as homeless via an app on our phones. In the end, he is our only homeless person sighting that night.

Last year the homeless count came under fire when a few census tracts showed seemingly inexplicable decreases or increases in homelessness. The most controversial was an area in Venice where a few hundred homeless people and tents and vehicles had been previously counted but in 2022 tallied as zero.

Critics blamed glitches in the app that was being used for the first time by volunteers to record their findings. LAHSA officials stood by the 2022 numbers but this year used a different app from a vendor with experience providing apps for homeless counts.

Although we had no problems using the new app on Wednesday night, LAHSA officials had trouble receiving the information. Our team was asked to email a screenshot of the tabulations. LAHSA spokesperson Ahmad Chapman told me in an email that it was a bandwidth problem that the vendor later corrected. Data from 24 of the 27 census tracts counted in Inglewood on Wednesday had been successfully entered. The unrecorded three would be counted later by LAHSA-coordinated teams, he said.

The count is neither perfect nor scientific. But it is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and it provides some useful data.

The Rand Corp. just unveiled the results of a yearlong survey of homelessness in L.A.'s skid row, Venice and Hollywood. The report presents a much deeper look at homelessness in those hot spots and how it fluctuated over the course of a year. That's valuable information to have. But it can't replace the point-in-time count, which collects a spectacular breadth of information three nights in a row.

Some have suggested that we stop relying on the count and cull more specific information from the database of homeless people filled out by outreach workers and service providers as well as from those who regularly interact with homeless people every day, such as firefighters and librarians.

All these methods could supplement the count. But let's not forget that unhoused people move around more than most housed people. The populations of encampments ebb and flow. It will always be an approximate census.

And even if last year's number was artificially low, 69,000 homeless people is still way too many. Whether we know the exact number or not, we know for certain there isn't enough housing for them.

— CARLA HALL,
A MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL BOARD

LETTERS

RAUL ROA Los Angeles Times

NATURAL GAS customers have seen their bills double or more in recent months. Above, a Southern California Gas Co. truck in Cypress.

Fossil fuels, the asbestos of today

Re "Soaring utility bill? Blame the instability of fossil fuels," editorial, Jan. 24

Asbestos was once a wonder material, prized for its versatility and durability, so we put it in just about everything. When we found alternatives that didn't destroy our lungs, we banned the stuff.

Fossil fuels are the modern asbestos. For decades, fossil fuel companies convinced us we need oil and gas because only they can provide a stable, reliable energy supply. We've seen the reality: Fossil fuels damage our health, the planet and our wallets, while subjecting us to the whims of a complex and hostile global market.

Thanks to renewable energy and building electrification, we can leave fossil fuels in the past. Congress and California should pass climate legislation and programs that help us embrace the alternatives even faster.

We'll soon regard our gas stoves and furnaces like the plaster walls of any old house, shaking our heads that we put them there in the first place.

JESSIE WARME
Reseda

::

I'll keep this short.

My gas bill for November was $100.90. For December, it was $165. For January, it's $504, which is more than half my house payment and about one-sixth of my total monthly income.

They might as well just cut me off. And I must not be the only one.

DEAN BLAU
Lake Balboa

::

Never mind any other expenses I may have. While I walk around in my house in multiple sweaters, a down vest and long underwear, and the thermostat is set at 65, I will have to fork over about one-fourth of my monthly teacher's retirement pension for this month's heating bill.

Who else is being ripped off?

THERESE H.E. WHITNEY
Sherman Oaks

::

In January 2022, my gas bill was $80. This month, my bill is $270. This is with no change in lifestyle.

I'm 77 years old, retired and a veteran. This is an outrageous error of planning by the Southern California Gas Co. on the purchasing of natural gas for their customers.

DON SERAFANO
Los Alamitos

::

Yes, we are receiving inflated gas bills, and it will motivate many of us to be more conservative in our use of gas appliances in our homes.

This is what it could be like with a carbon tax on all fossil fuels. However, if that tax were passed with a 100% rebate to all consumers equally, low- and middle-income residents would be protected from the high costs, while all would be incentivized to switch to electric appliances and vehicles.

DENNIS THOMPSON
Santa Barbara

::

Your editorial was not helpful. Rather than go into a long list of reasons to get off fossil fuel, it should have focused solely on the problem at hand.

Why are natural gas prices so high all of a sudden? The editorial mentions a main gas line between Texas and Southern California being repaired. Is that all?

How will converting all appliances to electricity help? Electric companies are already raising their rates, and in order to switch over, we all would need to replace our furnaces, hot water heaters and stoves. That also would be very costly.

BARRY LOWE
Costa Mesa

When forcing help is humane

Re "Groups sue over Newsom's CARE Court," Jan. 27

I am a longtime resident of Venice. My wife and I walk along the boardwalk and the main streets of the city regularly. We see people lying on sidewalks, eating out of garbage cans, making speeches to audiences that don't exist and other odd behaviors.

These people are not well. They cannot help themselves. I cannot conceive that leaving them to continue their lives without aid is civilized.

When we were able to compel these people into care, there were abuses. But not helping people is a larger abuse.

There must be middle ground. I hope the governor and his detractors pledge to sit down to hammer out the issues with the proposal to compel people into treatment. We must emerge as a caring state that doesn't ignore human suffering. Even a misstep is preferable to ignoring the problem.

ARTHUR KRAUS
Venice

::

How can we restore treatment for the unhoused if disability and civil rights advocates impede assistance based on "human rights"?

What can be sadder than observing a tortured homeless person suffering from mental illness? Don't they have a "right" to be helped?

BARBARA DOSS
Hawthorne

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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How to disagree on sexism and racism without being a jerk

Can two people have a fruitful debate on a topic like cultural appropriation or anti-racism? Yes, but get comfortable with being uncomfortable.

By Kenji Yoshino and David Glasgow

We once hosted an event at our law school to discuss how members of advantaged social groups could be "allies" to marginalized people. As we left, a white male student ran up to us. He had a burning question he wanted to pose privately: "What if I say something, and a woman says it was sexist, but I don't think it was. Am I allowed to disagree?"

Our response was easy: "Of course!" But he was right to feel nervous.

As scholars working on diversity and inclusion, we teach members of dominant groups how to have better conversations about identity issues. Many advantaged individuals find such disagreements agonizing. They often feel pressure to fake their opinions or defer to their conversation partners, fearing that to express any disagreement is to betray marginalized people or risk getting canceled.

To be clear, we don't want people to jump reflexively to disagreement. We first advise individuals to build resilience — the ability to manage discomfort — and then cultivate curiosity about others. In that particular student's case, perhaps his comment *was* sexist, but he won't understand why unless he grounds his emotions and listens generously to his conversation partner.

In some situations, however, resilience and curiosity aren't enough to resolve a genuine difference of opinion. Friends might legitimately disagree over whether it's appropriate for an organization to fire someone for transphobic comments made a decade ago.

Colleagues might reasonably disagree over whether someone was overlooked for a promotion because of bias. Without space to share disagreements, people will compromise their own dignity and authenticity rather than connecting and growing together. Many potential allies will simply avoid identity-related conversations if they think their only option is to capitulate to whatever the other person says.

The key is to learn how to express such disagreements without causing unnecessary harm to yourself or others.

A critical element is to recognize that not all identity disagreements are created equal. Imagine what we call the "controversy scale," which plots subjects of disagreement along a straight line. On the left are the safest subjects, where disagreement is expected or even celebrated. On the right are the most controversial subjects, where the conversation is most likely to turn ugly.

Disagreements over personal tastes are usually warm and good-natured, such as when friends mock us for our love of trashy TV shows. Disagreeing over facts is also relatively comfortable, provided it really is a debate about facts (such as who, what, when, where) rather than a thinly veiled debate over values (such as the vitriolic debates over "alternative facts" or "fake news").

The real danger comes when the topic drifts farther to the right on the controversy scale. The most intense conversations are those in which one or both sides feel their equal humanity has been put into question.

People from more advantaged social groups and less advantaged ones almost always locate relevant issues at different positions on the controversy scale. Take the recent comments of pop star Gwen Stefani when she was asked about accusations of cultural appropriation surrounding her Harajuku Lovers fragrance collection, which draws heavily on Japanese youth culture.

To Stefani, a white woman, the dispute was a policy debate over cultural sharing. She told a journalist that it "should be OK to be inspired by other cultures because if we're not allowed then that's dividing people, right?" To the interviewer, however, this topic had much deeper significance: "I am an Asian woman living in America, which comes with sobering realities during a time of heightened Asian American and Pacific Islander hate." What might seem like a conceptual argument about the definition of cultural appropriation was also a debate over which groups in society have power and which groups are less valued.

Many people fail to take the imaginative leap of considering how their own position on the controversy scale might differ from others'.

Another recent example is that of Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, soccer's governing body, who made headlines for a rambling defense of World Cup host Qatar's human rights record regarding women, LGBTQ+ people and migrant workers.

Rather than emphasizing what the debate might mean to members of these marginalized groups — and how that meaning might differ from his own perspective — Infantino appeared to think his perception of the controversy level was essentially the same as that of his critics.

"Today I feel gay. Today I feel disabled. Today I feel [like] a migrant worker," he said, adding that he knows "what it means" to be discriminated against: "As a child at school I was bullied because I had red hair and freckles." Infantino could have opened a nuanced, empathetic debate about how best to advance human rights in hostile jurisdictions. Instead, the conversation turned into a train wreck.

To use the controversy scale in a conversation, start by identifying where you would place a particular disagreement on the scale, then consider how your conversation partner might place it differently.

Suppose you are a parent of a white child, discussing the local school's anti-racist curriculum with a parent of a Black child. You might see the dispute as a factual debate over specific events in American history, or as a policy debate over how such history should be taught at different grade levels. They might see it as a debate over whether their child belongs at the school. To that parent, the antiracist curriculum might feel immediate and emotionally charged, while to you it feels more abstract and distant.

You may find that when you empathize with the other person's situation, you'll reassess the nature of the disagreement, and your perception of the issue will move closer to where they've placed it on the scale. But you might not.

The mental exercise can still pay off if you explicitly acknowledge how your counterpart's position might differ from your own: "To me this is a policy debate, but I see how it could be deeply personal for you, and I'll do my best to respect that fact when sharing my views."

There might also be times during or after a conversation when you realize you treated the topic as a purely intellectual exercise and need to recognize the impact the discussion might have had on the other person: "I've been bringing policy arguments to the table, but can I ask how you've been experiencing this discussion as someone whose life may be more directly affected by this issue?" Routinely, allies fail to take these simple but critical steps, depriving identity conversations of the empathy and respect they sorely need.

Using the controversy scale is one way to keep important conversations going. The worst outcome would be for people who see the world differently to disengage and learn nothing from each other.

When handled well, sharing a thoughtful difference of opinion can show the other person you value them enough to be honest with them. Learning to disagree respectfully is a gift you give yourself, but it's also one you give to your conversation partner.

Kenji Yoshino and David Glasgow are the faculty director and executive director, respectively, of the Meltzer Center for Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging at the New York University School of Law. They are co-authors of the forthcoming book "Say the Right Thing: How to Talk About Identity, Diversity, and Justice."

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Al Seib Los Angeles Times

A STUDENT on the campus of Los Angeles City College. Many students try to avoid loans by attending community colleges.

Higher education's fading promise

A college degree doesn't offer the economic mobility and financial security it once did.

By Jodie Adams Kirshner

A conspicuous economic divide in the U.S. has persisted between workers with college degrees and workers without them. Social policy since World War II has been built on the idea that people from disadvantaged backgrounds can cross that divide by completing college. Though this once seemed possible, for many it now feels more like a myth.

Using a college degree to earn a higher salary and climb ladders of economic mobility is not as easy as it once was. Instead of alleviating inequality, higher education too often deepens it. We need to admit that, on its own, education is not an adequate solution to poverty.

Historically America has relied on higher education as an engine of opportunity, and it has been an important driver of social progress and wealth creation. While equal outcomes have never been guaranteed, equal opportunity has been a crucial underpinning of the American dream.

Our policies, however, have too often diverged from these aims. An early law that provided subsidized higher education was the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill. The people it helped were primarily white, male veterans being rewarded for their service to the country. After the U.S.S.R.'s launch of Sputnik in 1957, a worrying move in the developing Cold War, the U.S. broadened educational aid specifically for the purposes of national competitiveness and defense, through the National Defense Education Act.

During the civil rights movement, new attention was paid to equity concerns around aid and opportunity in higher education, culminating in the establishment of the federal Pell grant program in 1972. Its purpose was to alleviate the need to borrow among poor students, so as not to discourage them from investing in a college education. But as legislative efforts turned to maintaining college affordability for the middle class in 1978, and Pell grants not increasing with the cost of living, federal policymakers began putting an emphasis on loans instead of grant aid as a method of boosting college enrollment and graduation.

Subsequent administrations, beginning with President Clinton, established tax credits for tuition savings. This disproportionately benefited families with the highest incomes and tax rates.

Higher education's promised ladder of economic mobility has become a downward slide for most without wealth. As it becomes even more unaffordable and unattainable, it can reinforce class divisions and reproduce existing inequality trends.

Most low-income students who enroll in college avoid taking out loans by attending community and for-profit colleges, which have much lower completion rates than nonprofit colleges and universities.

Community colleges earn two-fifths the revenue compared with public four-year colleges that bring in higher tuition, fees and receive more from state appropriations. From there, though more than 80% of incoming students state an intention to achieve a bachelor's degree, only 15% ultimately do. At for-profit colleges, an even larger proportion of disadvantaged students attend, paying more to become less likely to graduate, earning credits that do not transfer, using up limited federal financial aid and growing more likely to default on debt.

Meanwhile, wealthier students who graduate from high schools with better means feel more comfortable on college campuses and attend well-resourced institutions where more students graduate within four years.

Only students who finish degrees realize income gains from attending college. However, only about half the students who enter college graduate within six years, a particularly low figure when one considers the weight our society extends to education as a panacea for social and economic ills.

Students who take out loans to cover the cost of education and then default face ongoing financial devastation with particularly limited ability to discharge the debt, even through bankruptcy. Nearly half of African American students default on their student debt within 12 years of leaving college.

Our culture, meanwhile, is laden with fairy tale accounts of the against-all-odds success student, who was fueled by good words, devoted teachers and ample scholarships. These stories often elide race, secondary schooling and broader family dynamics. Low-income students who matriculate at elite institutions can indeed earn almost as much after graduation as wealthy students, but very few low-income students attend elite institutions.

By admitting that the current system of higher education does not function as a solution to poverty, we could begin to call for more direct and effective anti-poverty policies, such as President Biden's American Rescue Plan, which temporarily expanded the child tax credit and very quickly and substantially reduced child poverty and child hunger.

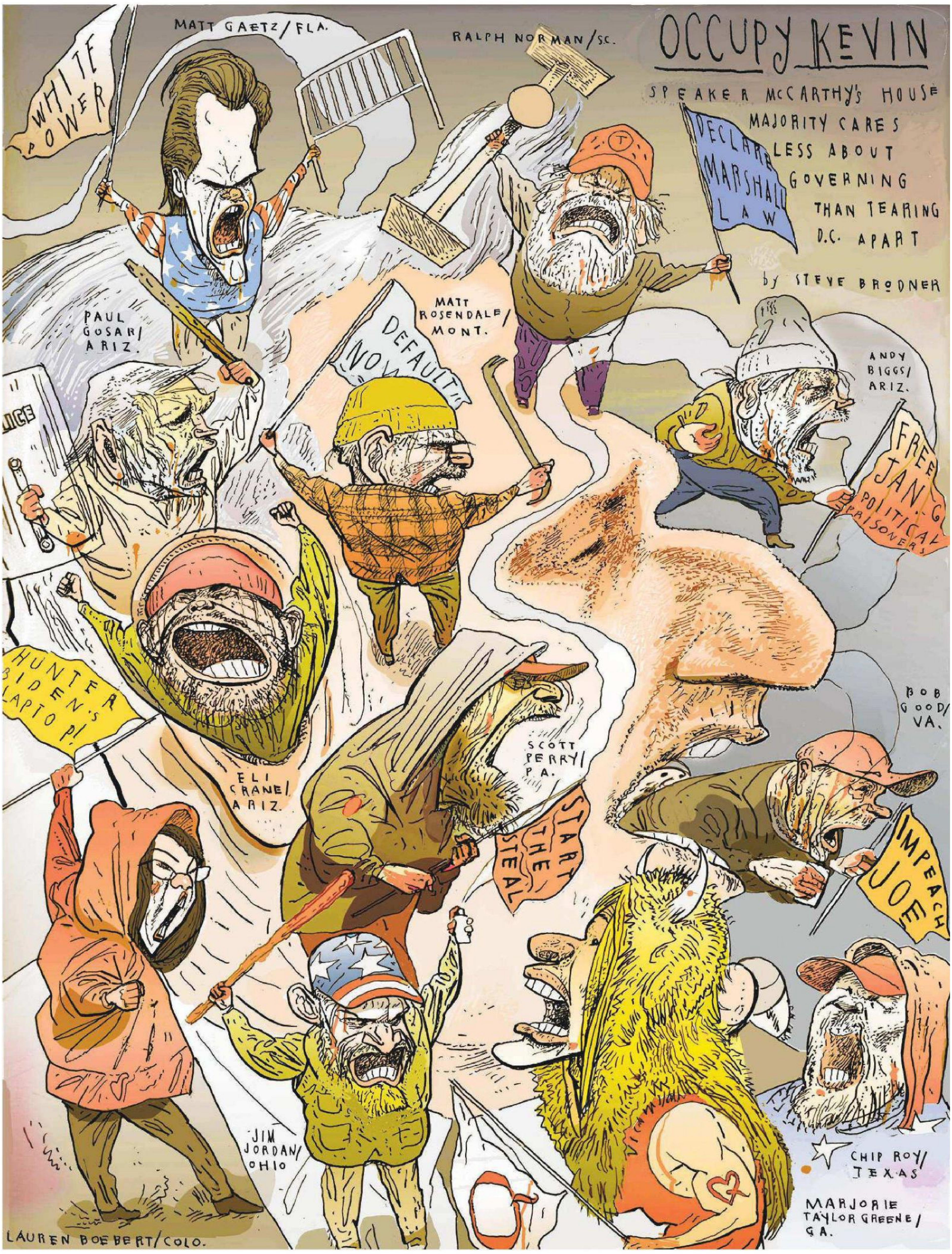
Additionally, the government should do more to fix inequities that stem from citizens' attempts to get a college education and should make higher education more accessible to all. The Biden administration's efforts to grant up to $20,000 in loan forgiveness to millions of Americans focuses exclusively on the issue of runaway debt. While a positive step, it masks the complex economic challenges the current generation of young people face when considering higher education. Programs such as AmeriCorps, for example, operate more proactively by awarding education funds to students up front in exchange for a year of service.

The government must recognize that the higher education system now is not a cure-all for inequality and commit to providing better policies to help those in poverty in addition to offering more solutions to making college affordable. Only then will those in poverty have the assistance they need to find their way out.

Jodie Adams Kirshner is an author and a research professor at New York University's Marron Institute. Her forthcoming book is "After a Generation of Dreams."

The insurrection's second coming?

By Steve Brodner


WHITE POWER
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RALPH NORMAN/SC.
OCCUPY KEVIN
SPEAKER McCARTHY's HOUSE MAJORITY CARES LESS ABOUT GOVERNING THAN TEARING D.C. APART
by STEVE BRODNER
DECLARE MARSHALL LAW
PAUL GOSAR/ARIZ.
MATT ROSENDALE/MONT.
DEFAULT NOW
ANDY BIGGS/ARIZ.
FREE JAN. 6 POLITICAL PRISONERS
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STEVE BRODNER is a contributing artist to Opinion. He blogs at https://stevebrodner.substack.com/.

Dry January hasn't been so bad after all

ROBIN ABCARIAN

IT'S ALMOST THE end of my first Dry January, and I am happy to report — as if you didn't already know — that it's possible to stop drinking even when you think you can't.

Over the years, for fairly mundane reasons, I have become uneasy about my relationship with alcohol. Drinking feels too much like a mindless habit. It makes me fat. It interferes with a good night's sleep. It's embarrassing to admit to having a hangover at my age.

I've never been arrested for drunk driving, never blacked out and gone home with a stranger, never been told by a doctor that I'm endangering my health. (Although I did once instruct my doctor to write "Stop drinking!" on her after-visit notes for me, thinking that would give me an official nudge to lose weight. It did not.)

I usually imbibe at home, which I know people say is a warning sign for problem drinking, but when you work full time and are single-handedly raising an adolescent who is in bed by 9 p.m., where else are you supposed to drink?

But that's the thing, isn't it? You aren't *supposed* to drink. You choose to. And so, for this month, I chose to stop, although here I will make a confession: I did not have an absolutely, 100% dry January. I had a semiarid January.

In the middle of the month, I drank some wine in San Francisco with my niece. I was only mildly annoyed with myself. But about a week after that, I drank a couple of vodkas one evening at home after my niece went to bed. I woke up in the wee hours with my heart pounding and felt so lousy the next morning that it was clear why I stopped in the first place. *That's right*, the universe was telling me, *vodka is not good for you!* I resumed my sober experiment.

And, for reinforcement, I picked up Sarah Levy's "Drinking Games," a new memoir about a young New Yorker who realizes after too many blackouts, emergency room visits and mornings with strangers in her bed that drinking is destroying her life.

It's a fresh iteration of a familiar theme: A high-achieving, upper-middle-class white girl with an uncontrollable drinking problem who's constantly falling down and puking in public trash cans finally admits that alcohol is killing her. All the wellness culture in the world — the SoulCycle rides, the hip-hop yoga classes — could not make her healthy. Only sobriety could do that.

I couldn't really say that Levy's experience mirrored *my* life — after all, we are a generation apart — but I've written enough about how alcohol puts young women in dangerous or ambiguous situations and, as the mom of a young woman and guardian of another, I wanted to know how she saved herself and how she managed to survive all those years when practically every time she drank, she blacked out. In some ways, I guess, she was just lucky.

"Somebody said that when men get drunk they go out into the world and do things," Levy told me by phone last week from West Hollywood, where she lives with her husband, "and when women get drunk, the world does things to them."

It's a chilling thought. We were at that moment discussing the role that alcohol plays in sexual assault and consent. While it's clear that Levy had a number of experiences that might, in some courtrooms, constitute assault, she takes responsibility for putting herself in bad spots.

"I told myself that this is empowered of me," she told me. "I'm having one-night stands the way men are." But owning your sexuality is hardly the same as unconsciously falling into bed with a stranger.

"I experienced a lot of shame around my blackouts, which stopped me from speaking candidly about them," she said. "A lot of my friends feel bad because they didn't know what was going on with me. They didn't realize how much I was struggling. I was so preoccupied with making sure that things looked normal on the outside."

When Levy stopped drinking five years ago at 28, the concept of "sober curious" was just capturing imaginations, as was the idea of Dry January, which has now reached the point of cultural — forgive me — saturation.

Bookshelves were starting to groan with the popular subgenre of memoir called "quit lit," about women and addiction to all sorts of things (drugs, drink, porn, dieting).

Social media sites aimed at helping people stop drinking have proliferated, as have chat groups on websites such as Reddit, where I've been dipping lately into a conversation called Stop Drinking that is by turns inspiring and devastating.

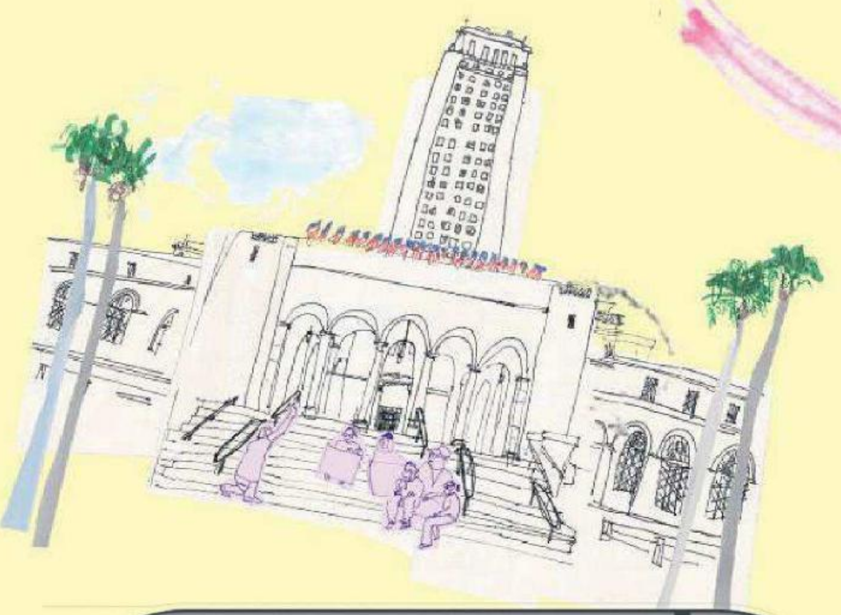
People who are struggling want to hear from others who are in the same fight or who have crushed it.

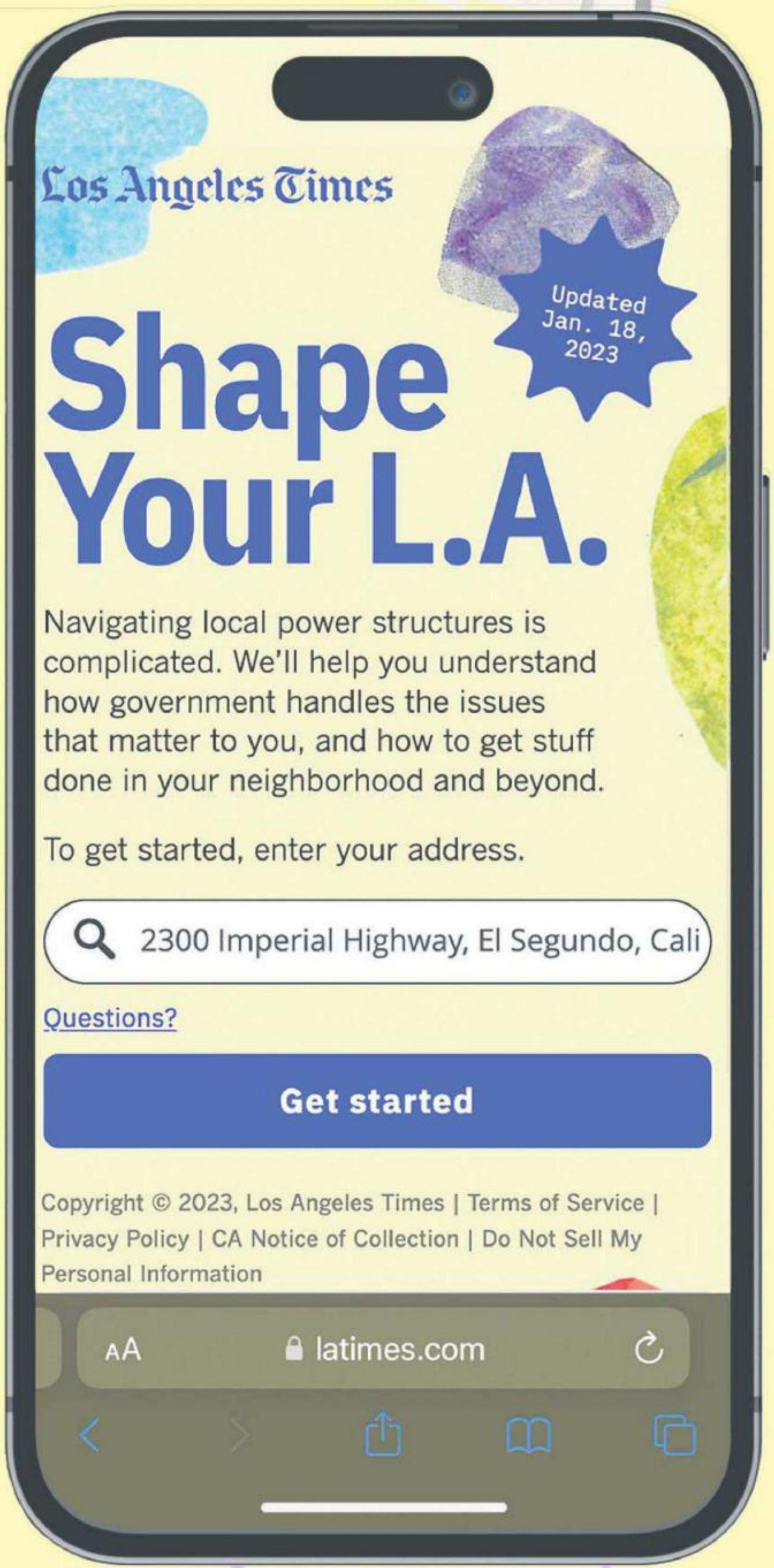
There was a time when it was far less fashionable for women to admit being drunks. And this, I think, is why so many women my age were bowled over by the late Caroline Knapp's stunning 1996 confessional memoir, "Drinking: A Love Story." (Will there ever be a more perfect title for such books?)

"I loved the way drink made me feel," wrote Knapp, "and I loved its special power of deflection, its ability to shift my focus away from my own awareness of self and onto something else, something less painful than my own feelings."

Those of us who drink can surely relate to that. I can't say I've had any major revelations about myself in the past month, except that I sleep so much better without alcohol. Oh, and that it's entirely possible to do things you never thought you could. Which, come to think of it, is pretty huge.

@AbcarianLAT





Los Angeles Times

Updated Jan. 18, 2023

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/CALIFORNIA

Photographs by FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

JAZZ DRUMMER Steve Hideg, left, ex-Doors drummer John Densmore and guitarist Leo Vaz play in a jam session at Stein on Vine. Densmore had read a 2017 Steve Lopez column about Hideg and wanted to meet him.

Drummer, 91, is sticking with it

After a bad fall, Steve Hideg continues to let the music carry him

STEVE LOPEZ

It was around midnight when Steve Hideg made a trip to his bathroom, got dizzy and took a fall.

"I hit my head over here," Hideg told me, pointing to the edge of his bathroom sink. He lay on the floor next to the bathtub for about 20 minutes, hoping to regain his strength and get back on his feet.

Hideg, 91, is blind in one eye and deaf in one ear from injuries suffered when bombs rained on Budapest during World War II. In recent years he's become shaky on his feet, and he's taken several falls in his one-bedroom apartment in East Hollywood.

But the one last August was a bad one.

Photographer Francine Orr heard about it and alerted me. We'd collaborated on a story about Hideg in 2017, when we learned the jazz drummer and band leader's rent was higher than his monthly income. At the time, he called his situation a "beautiful struggle." He was broke but still doing the thing he loved, playing in small bands here and there.

[See **Lopez,** B7]

HIDEG, who is blind in one eye and deaf in one ear, does physical therapy at his L.A. home. He severely injured his shoulder in a fall in August.

GOLDEN STATE California is about to be hit by an aging population wave, and Steve Lopez is riding it. His new column will focus on the blessings and burdens of advancing age — and how some folks are challenging the stigma associated with older adults. Read his other columns online at **latimes.com**.

L.A. region makes strides on COVID

Three years in, county 'in a better place' via community immunity and vaccinations.

By Luke Money and Rong-Gong Lin II

Three years to the day after reporting its first confirmed case of COVID-19, Los Angeles County is "in a much better place" in the pandemic — hard-won progress a top health official attributes to vaccination, community immunity resulting from the virus' rampant spread and the development of tools that have blunted the worst effects.

In the nation's most-populous county, reported coronavirus cases have fallen to fewer than 1,000 a day — a level not seen since October, when California enjoyed a lull between last summer's surge and a shorter-lived spike that began in November.

Coronavirus levels measured in the county's wastewater — a key barometer as many infections are no longer captured in official counts because of the proliferation of at-home tests — have plummeted in recent weeks.

"These numbers confirm that the decline in transmission is both real and significant," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said.

Even amid tempered transmission, COVID-19 continues to exact a toll, with about 140 deaths reported per week for nearly a month. That's well above the 43 reported the first week of November, the low point during autumn, and the 24 reported during a week in the early-May lull.

"It's important that we continue to be aware that this virus is still dangerous and remains a leading cause of death in L.A. County," Ferrer said. However, "hopefully the decline in transmission will be followed soon by a decrease in deaths."

She said a more stable COVID-19 death rate would be about 35 a week. This may be a difficult number for some to accept — especially since deaths are largely preventable with vaccines — but would nonetheless "indicate that our protections are really working extraordinarily well."

Those measures include staying up to date on vaccines, wearing a mask in indoor public settings, testing regularly to confirm infection status, remaining home when sick and promptly

[See **Pandemic,** B6]

County eases mask stand

Outside of healthcare settings, officials say, transit is one area to still think twice about.

By Rong-Gong Lin II and Luke Money

With coronavirus transmission on the decline, Los Angeles County health officials have relaxed their broad recommendation that everyone mask up indoors while in public.

While wearing a face covering is still required in certain settings — such as healthcare facilities and nursing homes — and still encouraged aboard public transit, the decision for most should now be considered a matter of personal preference.

That isn't to say masking is no longer useful, county Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said Thursday.

"I do encourage people to continue to think of masking as an effective tool to reduce exposure to COVID-19," she said, as she continued wearing a mask — as usual — during her weekly briefing.

Ferrer also continues to strongly recommend that individuals more vulnerable to severe illness keep wearing masks in indoor public settings, especially those that are crowded or have poor ventilation.

Businesses, schools and offices can still choose to mandate mask use.

"We encourage workers who are going to have many, many exposures during the day to go ahead and keep those masks on," Ferrer said. Workers with vulnerable family members also may elect to continue masking in public to reduce the chance of bringing an infec-

[See **Masks,** B6]

L.A. Unified's extra learning days draw questions of efficacy

District's $36-million 'acceleration' sessions had 17% of students sign up and 9% attend.

By Howard Blume

The two second-graders in Susana Cabello's class got a brief but exclusive education during the Los Angeles school district's winter break. They had not only Cabello's undivided attention all day, but that of a professional tutor as well.

This education booster shot came at considerable expense — about $611 per day per student for up to two added "acceleration days." That same cost, multiplied over a 180-day school year, would total about $110,000 per student. By comparison, next year's record state education funding will provide $23,723 per public school student.

The bonus schooling on Dec. 19 and 20 cost $36 million. After a heavy promotional push, about 17% of the district's 422,276 students signed up; however, less than 9%, or 36,486 showed up, according to data.

As the district evaluates the high cost and low attendance of the winter learning days — paid for with one-time state and federal COVID-19 funding — some officials, teachers and parents are questioning whether millions more should be spent on a similar effort during the first two days of spring break.

While Supt. Alberto Carvalho has called the acceleration days a worthwhile investment, others say another $30-some million could be better spent on different learning and enrichment needs.

"I still have a lot of questions," said newly elected school board member Rocio Rivas, who represents a region that includes downtown and Boyle Heights. Rivas took office after the Board of Education approved the acceleration-day plan.

"These two first days of acceleration left a lot to be desired," she said. "And yeah, parents were not sending their kids, so why are we going to spend another two days and we're going to see the same results? It's going to be a waste of money."

In her view, the quality and organization of offerings varied substantially from campus to campus. She also would like to see a parent survey as part of any planning for the next days in April.

Rivas said academic field trips could be a better investment. Parents had wide-ranging suggestions, such as

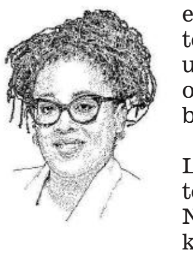
[See **L.A. Unified,** B4]

GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

"IT'S SAD we even have to compare this. ... It doesn't make sense," says Rodney King's daughter Lora Dene King, watching the Tyre Nichols video.

Comparisons miss this point about policing and racism

ERIKA D. SMITH



Lora Dene King had no intention of watching even five minutes of Memphis police beating Tyre Nichols.

"Honestly, I have to baby-sit my mental state," she told me. "It's a lot for me to process."

Like many of us, she had heard the warnings that the roughly hour's worth of video released on Friday would be far more violent, far more brutal and far more savage than the grainy footage of Los Angeles police officers beating her father, Rodney King, back in 1991.

Memphis Police Chief Cerelyn Davis surmised it was "about the same, if not worse."

And Ed Obayashi, a Northern California sheriff's deputy and use-of-force expert, concluded it was "far worse," telling The Times: "In all my years of use-of-force cases, I have never [seen] one where they are holding him up to beat him."

But on Friday, King headed to Leimert Park anyway, and forced herself to watch video of five cops dragging Nichols from his car and then punching, kicking, tackling, pepper-spraying and attempting to tase the defenseless 29-year-old Black man. And then laughing about it.

Her mouth periodically falling open in shock, King reflected on what has and hasn't changed in policing over the decades — including the delusions that far too many Americans apparently share about how change actually occurs.

[See **Smith,** B10]

How to discuss gun violence with children

Experts weigh in with guidance on ways to provide both comfort and clarity. **B3**

Teens educate on COVID-19

Health groups are deputizing youths to encourage people to get vaccinated. **B2**

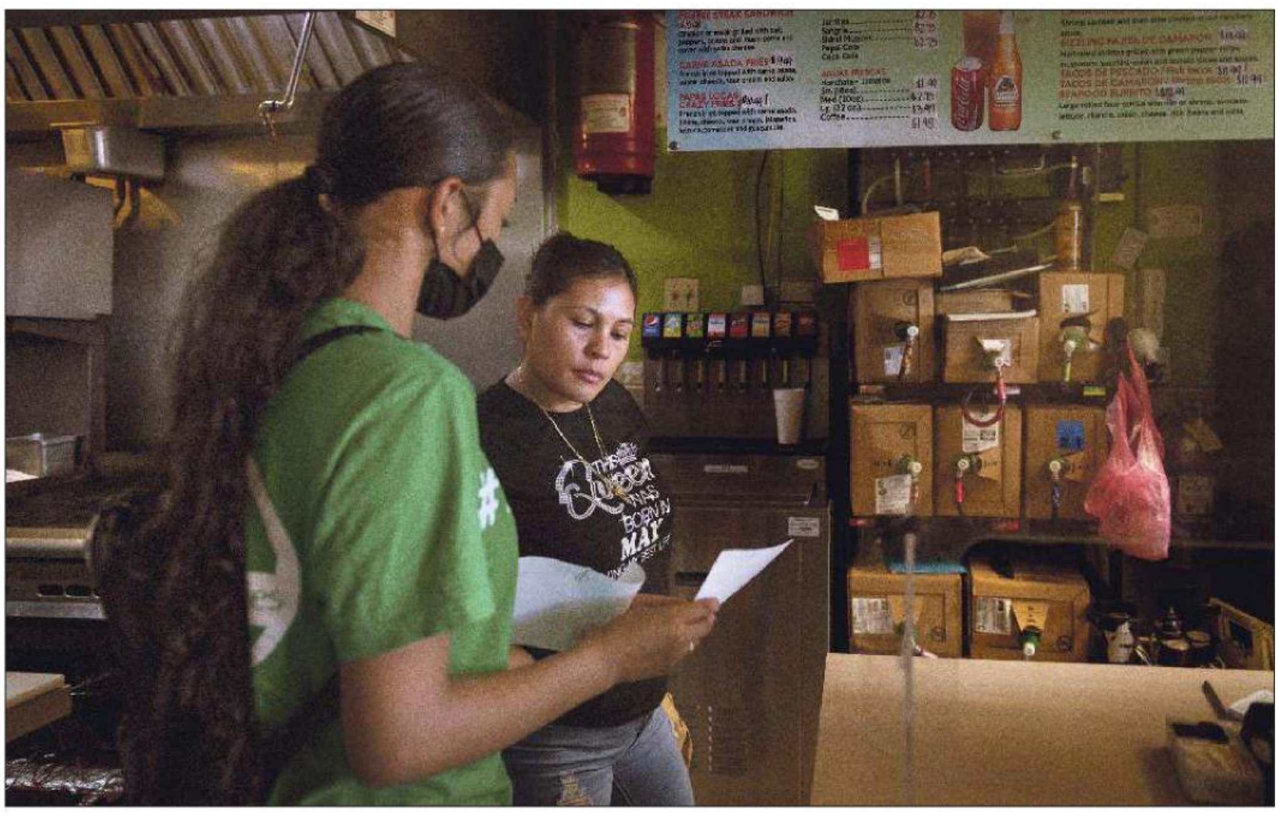
Trailblazing tap dancer, 97, dies

Arthur Duncan kept art form alive when most had relegated it to the past. **B4**

Lottery **B2**

Latino teens are deputized as COVID educators

By Heidi de Marco



Heidi de Marco Kaiser Health News

MELISSA LOPEZ, left, explains the coronavirus testing process to a taco shop employee in Fresno. Health groups are training teens to serve as COVID-19 educators to help sway unvaccinated community members.

Classmates often stop Alma Gallegos as she makes her way down the bustling hallways of Theodore Roosevelt High School in southeast Fresno. The 17-year-old senior is frequently asked by fellow students about COVID-19 testing, vaccine safety and the value of booster shots.

Alma earned her reputation as a trusted source of information through her internship as a junior community health worker. She was among 35 Fresno County students recently trained to discuss how COVID-19 vaccines help prevent serious illness, hospitalization and death, and to encourage relatives, peers and community members to stay up to date on their shots, including boosters.

When Alma's internship drew to a close in October, she and seven teammates assessed their work in a capstone project. The students took pride in being able to share facts about COVID-19 vaccines.

Separately, Alma persuaded her family to get vaccinated. She said her relatives, who primarily received COVID-19 information from Spanish-language news, didn't believe the risks until a close family friend died.

"It makes you want to learn more about it," Alma said. "My family is all vaccinated now, but we learned the hard way."

Community health groups in California and across the country are training teens, many of them Latino, and deputizing them to serve as health educators at school, on social media and in communities where COVID-19 vaccine fears persist.

According to a 2021 survey commissioned by Voto Latino and conducted by Change Research, 51% of unvaccinated Latinos said they didn't trust the safety of the vaccines. The number jumped to 67% for those whose primary language at home is Spanish. The most common reasons for declining the shot included not trusting that the vaccine will be effective and not trusting the vaccine manufacturers.

And vaccine hesitancy is not prevalent only among the unvaccinated. Although nearly 88% of Hispanics and Latinos have received at least one dose, few report staying up to date on their shots, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC estimated fewer than 13% of Hispanics and Latinos have received a bivalent booster, an updated shot that public health officials recommend to protect against newer variants of the virus.

Health providers and advocates believe that young people like Alma are well positioned to help boost vaccination numbers, particularly when they help navigate the health system for their Spanish-speaking relatives.

"It makes sense we should look to our youth as COVID educators for their peers and families," said Dr. Tomás Magaña, an assistant clinical professor in the pediatrics department at UC San Francisco. "And when we're talking about the Latino community, we have to think deeply and creatively about how to reach them."

Some training programs use peer-to-peer models on campuses, while others teach teens to fan out into their communities. FACES for the Future Coalition, a public youth corps based in Oakland, is leveraging programs in California, New Mexico, Colorado and Michigan to turn students into COVID-19 vaccine educators. And the Health Information Project in Florida, which trains high school juniors and seniors to teach freshmen about physical and emotional health, integrates COVID-19 vaccine safety into its curriculum.

In Fresno, the junior community health worker program, called Promotoritos, adopted the promotora model. Promotoras are non-licensed health workers in Latino communities tasked with guiding people to medical resources and promoting better lifestyle choices. Studies show that promotoras are trusted members of the community, making them uniquely positioned to provide vaccine education and outreach.

"Teenagers communicate differently, and they get a great response," said Sandra Celedon, chief executive of Fresno Building Healthy Communities, one of the organizations that helped design the internship program for students 16 and older. "During outreach events, people naturally want to talk to the young person."

The teens participating in Promotoritos are mainly Latino, immigrants without legal status, refugee students or children of immigrants. They undergo 20 hours of training, including social media campaign strategies. For that, they earn school credit and were paid $15 an hour last year.

"Nobody ever thinks about these kids as interns," Celedon said. "So we wanted to create an opportunity for them because we know these are the students who stand to benefit the most from a paid internship."

Last fall, Alma, who is Latina, and three other junior community health workers distributed coronavirus testing kits to local businesses. Their first stop was Tiger Bite Bowls, an Asian fusion restaurant. The teens huddled around the restaurant's owner, Chris Vang, and asked him if he had any questions about COVID-19. Toward the end of their conversation, they handed him a handful of test kits.

"I think it's good that they're aware and not afraid to share their knowledge about COVID-19," Vang said. "I'm going to give these tests to whoever needs them — customers and employees."

There's another benefit of the program: exposure to careers in healthcare.

California faces a widespread labor shortage in the healthcare industry, and health professionals don't always reflect the increasing diversity of the state's population. Latinos represent 39% of California's population but only 6% of the state's physician population and 8% of the state's medical school graduates, according to a California Health Care Foundation report.

Alma said she joined the program after she saw a flier at the school counselor's office. She said it was her way to help prevent other families from losing a loved one.

Now, she is interested in becoming a radiologist.

"At my age," Alma said, "this is easily the perfect way to get involved."

De Marco writes for Kaiser Health News, which publishes California Healthline, an editorially independent service of the California Health Care Foundation.

Lottery results

For Friday, Jan. 27, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

4-43-46-47-61—**Mega 22**
Jackpot: $20 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	1	$746
4	22	$196
3 + Mega	95	$10
3	2,094	$10
2 + Mega	1,868	$10
1 + Mega	14,773	$4
Mega only	36,791	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: None

For Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

8-29-31-33-36—**Mega 4**
Jackpot: $28 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

2-18-23-27-47—**Powerball 15**
Jackpot: $572 million

Fantasy Five: 8-10-22-26-30

Daily Four: 4-4-8-5

Daily Three (midday): 3-9-4

Daily Three (evening): 4-0-3

Daily Derby:
(4) Big Ben
(12) Lucky Charms
(11) Money Bags
Race time: 1:42.99

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
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Decorative Table Clocks, Spheres & Globes
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How to talk with children about gun violence

Experts weigh in with guidance on ways to provide both comfort and clarity.

By Laura Newberry and Jaclyn Cosgrove

Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times

A CHILD is carried at a vigil for the victims of a mass shooting at Star Ballroom Dance Studio on Monday in Monterey Park. Experts say there are ways to help children feel safer after such a traumatic event.

In a span of just eight days, mass gun violence killed 24 people in California and left many fearful about whether they can feel safe in any public place.

For parents, guardians and educators, the days following mass shootings require a delicate balance of answering children's questions while protecting them from gruesome details of the most recent tragedy.

Despite their young ages, kids are often resilient in the face of hardship, but that doesn't mean they aren't scared too as they hear news of killings in Goshen, Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay.

"Children often say they are fine after a terrible event," Alhambra Unified School District Supt. Denise R. Jaramillo wrote in a letter to families Monday, reminding adults to watch for behavioral changes in their children that might signify they're struggling. Schools in Alhambra reopened Tuesday.

If a child's sleep pattern, appetite or communication style changes, Jaramillo said, a child might be signaling that they're scared about what's happened.

"If you see changes in your child's patterns of behavior, let your child know this is a message from their mind and body that they need to talk about what they are thinking and feeling," Jaramillo said. "Please let your child's school know that your child may be suffering without understanding that the behaviors are related to unexpressed fears and anxiety."

The Times spoke with experts who shared similar guidance, expanding upon how to help children feel safe amid acts of violence close to home.

Here are some of the tips they suggested:

Check in with your child and talk to them about their concerns.

Mental health professionals advise that the first thing parents should do is make sure their child or adolescent knows they are willing and available to talk with them.

Always start with asking your child or teen what they've already heard about the event, Katherine Williams, a child and adolescent psychologist and professor of psychiatry at UC San Diego, said in a 2022 interview with The Times after a previous mass shooting. Parents can do this by asking open-ended questions and calmly addressing children's questions in a simple and developmentally appropriate way. Young children may have heard nothing about the incident, but older children may have watched news videos during the school day.

Help your child to identify their feelings about the shooting, Williams said. A great way to do that is to model expressing how you feel about it. For example, you could say: "I'm feeling worried about those families. ... How are you feeling right now?" And then help the child find ways to cope with those difficult feelings, such as talking about the people who help in such tragedies.

Give kids a sense of control.

Kids may feel like the world is spinning out of control and that there's not much they can do about it. But it's important that they do not feel helpless, said Richard Weissbourd, a Harvard psychology professor whose work focuses on vulnerability and resilience in childhood, who also spoke with The Times in 2022.

This is especially true for teens, who are more prone to feeling disillusioned and cynical. Encourage your kids to convert "passivity into activity," Weissbourd said. If they feel strongly about gun control or school safety, let them get involved in political action or advocacy. "Anything that will help them feel like they might have an impact on this problem, that it will be less likely to happen again if there is collective action," is really important.

Talk with adolescents about what it has taken to emerge from dark periods of history, and what our responsibility is in situations like this — that we "have to push for the change that we want," Weissbourd said.

Younger kids can also send thank you notes to paramedics, peace officers and others who helped to save lives, "which in turn helps the child feel like they have hope, as well as some control in what feels like a scary world right now," Williams said.

Give kids reassuring facts about their safety.

Parents should immediately reassure children that they are safe — a practice that extends to all trauma survivors.

With younger children, adults can explain all that adults do to keep them safe, such as locking doors and conducting drills.

When shootings take place at schools, parents also can and should tell their children that school is a safe place for them.

Treat children according to their age.

Give young children only brief, simple information. These children are less verbal so they may communicate about their anxiety by drawing or playing. Answer their questions with specifics, but don't overload them.

For middle- and high-school-age youth, more detailed conversations will be appropriate. The best place to have those conversations depends on the teen — it could be in the car or while a friend is present, instead of just sitting and talking about the event one on one.

Limit exposure to the media.

This is true for youth of all ages. Violent images can cause secondary trauma. Symptoms in children include chronic fatigue, anger, poor concentration and fearfulness. And developmentally inappropriate information can cause anxiety and confusion.

For younger children, "every time they watch the news, they feel like it's a new event as opposed to repetition of the same event. It's important for them not to watch too much," Carol Vidal, a child and adolescent psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins University, told The Times in 2019.

While older kids will understand that difference, prolonged exposure to graphic images and details is harmful to them as well.

Model healthy behavior.

Children pick up everything their parents are saying and doing. Parents can set an example by turning off the television, radio or social media. It can be constructive for parents to acknowledge that constantly watching or hearing about a violent incident makes them too feel anxious or fearful.

But parents should make clear that they are handling their own emotions and that their child does not need to be strong for them, Jonathan Vickburg, a licensed marriage and family therapist who treats kids dealing with trauma, said in a 2022 interview.

One way you can do this is by talking to other parents, Weissbourd said. Find out how they're feeling and how they're choosing to discuss the tragedy with their kids.

It's natural to be anxious right now. But if you don't manage your reactions, you might worsen or even jump-start your child's anxiety. Weissbourd recommends going for a walk, meditating, limiting news intake (especially distressing images), and hanging out with loved ones as coping strategies.

Maintain routines.

Sticking to routines can be reassuring and help children and teens maintain a sense of normality.

That may be difficult in the hours and days immediately after a traumatic event, Vickburg said, but parents can still help their children put some order to their days — for example, by continuing to have dinner with family, doing homework or hanging out with friends. With teenagers in particular, giving them extra time to be with their friends is important. It helps them establish normality and connect to their support network.

Have a plan.

Review safety procedures at school and at home. Let children know whom to call, where to meet and how to communicate in case of an emergency.

Observe children's emotional state and seek help if necessary.

The majority of children are resilient and will not experience long-term symptoms after a one-off event, experts said. Immediately after a violent incident they may experience anxiety and fear. Some people closer to the incident may also have difficulty sleeping or be jittery.

Watch for changes in behavior, mood, appetite or sleep. You should also look for avoidance of school, social isolation and increased tantrums, Williams said. When such symptoms persist over time and start affecting how a person functions, that's when professional help may be needed.

More tips on having the conversation

The National Assn. of School Psychologists has guidelines for explaining violent events to children of different ages. It's important, the experts say, to use age-appropriate language, and to answer questions without adding to confusion. From the NASP tip sheet:

- "Early elementary school children need brief, simple information that should be balanced with reassurances that their school and homes are safe and that adults are there to protect them."
- "Upper elementary and early middle school children will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Discuss efforts of school and community leaders to provide safe schools."
- "Upper middle school and high school students will have strong and varying opinions about the causes of violence in schools and society. ... Emphasize the role that students have in maintaining safe schools by following school safety guidelines ... communicating any personal safety concerns to school administrators, and accessing support for emotional needs."

The Los Angeles County Office of Education also offers these resources to help parents and educators:

- Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth After the Recent Shooting (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network)
- Helping Children Cope with Frightening News (Child Mind Institute)
- Cómo ayudar a los niños a afrontar noticias alarmantes (Child Mind Institute)
- Coping in the Aftermath of a Shooting (American Counseling Assn.)

Former Times staff writers Nina Argawal and Sonali Kholi contributed to this report.

Alhambra to 'start the healing' at Lunar New Year event

By Anh Do

Genaro Molina Los Angeles Times

BRANDON TSAY, who disarmed the Monterey Park gunman at the second dance studio he targeted, will be honored at Alhambra's Lunar New Year Festival.

Alhambra officials hope to "start the healing" by moving forward with the city's annual Lunar New Year Festival on Sunday, a week after the event was canceled following a mass shooting that left 11 dead in neighboring Monterey Park.

Organizers said they struggled with whether to hold the celebration, as the community mourned along with the rest of the country over the Jan. 21 shooting. The victims were gunned down amid Lunar New Year revelry at Star Ballroom Dance Studio.

Gunman Huu Can Tran then went to Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in Alhambra, where he was disarmed by 26-year-old Brandon Tsay, who will be honored at Sunday's gathering. Tran later took his own life.

"We were thinking: What is the best way to serve the community and meet the needs of those impacted?" said John Bwarie, chief executive of the Alhambra Chamber of Commerce, one of the lead organizers. "Between Sunday and Tuesday, it was a safety, logistics and appropriateness conversation."

The festival will be held in downtown Alhambra from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. and will include lion dancers, candy sculpting, a farmers market, activities for kids and a variety of food vendors.

Since 1992, chamber leaders have been working with city officials to produce the street festival, minus a two-year hiatus during the pandemic. Tragedy forced the closure of the second day of Monterey Park's own Lunar New Year Festival last week, prompting Alhambra residents and business owners to do some intense soul-searching.

For advice, Bwarie and others reached out to food vendors, performers and nonprofit activists, as well as Asian American and Pacific Islander groups that have been working to combat anti-AAPI hate crimes.

Some vendors decided to pull out — their staff was "too emotional after the crisis," he said. "Or they worried that if they made an effort to show up, all nine hours, would there be customers? I'm not saying that money matters more than lives. Of course not. Yet there's a whole collection of folks who do the Lunar New Year festival circuit and they depend on this to survive."

Ultimately, the organizing team decided "we had to do it. Even if it doesn't look like what everyone expected — what it was in years past. Going on with the celebration creates some sense of normalcy in the chaos people were experiencing," Bwarie said. "There's the idea of what it means to be in community. We want to provide the best opportunity for all of us to start healing together."

Planners already had a spot selected for a wellness pavilion, typically offering flu shots, diabetes testing and measuring blood pressure. This time around, mental health counselors will be on hand to help visitors process recent events and to provide healthcare resources.

Tsay will be honored by city officials and police for his bravery in disarming the gunman. A remembrance ceremony will also be held for the victims of the Monterey Park shooting.

"We can honor what should be honored — and we can have fun while at the same time respecting the reality of the world we live in," Bwarie said.

Organizers of the Tet Festival, the largest Lunar New Year gathering in North America, also wanted their show to continue.

The three-day celebration at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa kicked off Friday, after its marketing team blanketed Asian American and mainstream groups with assurances of heightened security, metal detectors and bag checks.

"It's been amazing to see how our leaders in their 20s stood up and promised they would do everything they can to protect seniors and families going out to celebrate," said Catt Phan, executive assistant for the Miss Vietnam of Southern California Cultural & Scholastic Pageant, a main attraction at the event. The festival, which traditionally draws 50,000-plus visitors, is organized by the Union of Vietnamese Student Assns. of Southern California.

Phan, of Fountain Valley, said she's been nervous for her safety since the Atlanta spa shootings in 2021 — yet as a participant in the pageant in 2019, when she won Miss Congeniality, she couldn't stay away. "I want to be respectful, yet still claim my joy," she added.

For four months, Phan has helped to guide the current crop of contestants, working on speaking skills and learning cultural proverbs.

Appearing at the competition is "the culmination of their journey," she said. "There are few moments that we get to declare ourselves and in our terms. This is one of them and we're going to make sure this celebration is a celebration."

Educators question district's extra learning days

[**L.A. Unified,** from B1]

making campuses more secure or improving air filtration to cut down on the spread of flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV.

Leaders of the nation's second-largest school system have pledged to prioritize learning recovery after test scores showed deep learning setbacks during the pandemic campus closures, followed by a year of skyrocketing absenteeism as COVID-19 surges continued. State test scores fell to their lowest levels in about five years, interrupting what had been steady, incremental progress. And even before the pandemic, most district students already were behind grade level in math.

Carvalho sees value in the extra learning days, which are among his initiatives.

"What we keep hearing from the students ... is, if you had given us five days we would have come for five days," Carvalho said after visiting Cabello's classroom.

"Some people say: 'Oh my God. That lady was only dealing with two students.' " Carvalho called this ratio "perfect."

For the students who attended the extra days, "it makes a world of difference," he said. "Do we have the capacity, the potential to actually do more? Of course."

There were 10 students on the roster for Cabello and tutor Ananna Ahamed. Three showed the first day and two the second.

Originally, the district's plan had been to insert four acceleration days on Wednesdays at strategic points in the school year, which would have resulted in pushing back the last day of school by four days. Officials wanted to integrate these extra and optional days into a normal school week, making them seamless for schedules and harder to avoid.

The teachers union threatened a boycott and filed a legal challenge, saying the calendar change should have been brought to the bargaining table. The district backed down and negotiated what Carvalho called Plan B, which was expected to attract fewer students because of winter vacation.

Board member Scott Schmerelson said Tuesday that he was concerned that some employees might have discouraged families from participating, a reflection of political disputes rather than a focus on what's best for students.

"One of the problems we had is that it wasn't promoted enough by teachers in the school," he said. "We should be constantly pushing the kids to be able to go to acceleration and not use it as a political football."

Although there was no set attendance target by which to measure success or failure, Carvalho first announced figures that proved to be an overcount.

Near the end of the second acceleration day, Carvalho said attendance was 60,000 to 70,000 the first day and 50,000 to 60,000 the second day. A month later, at last week's school board meeting, officials cut those figures in about half. More specific numbers were provided Friday in response to a query from board member Nick Melvoin.

Luis Sinco Los Angeles Times

STUDENTS dance over winter break as part of L.A. Unified's "acceleration days" program, which cost $36 million. A similar plan may take place over spring break.

In all, 36,486 students attended one or both days. On the first day, 32,390 attended; on the second, 26,558 — 18% fewer. The total number of school days attended — 58,948 — works out to the $611 per school day per student.

Despite the cost, school board President Jackie Goldberg said she was cautiously encouraged because the vast majority of participating students were those identified as especially needing help.

"If that had not been true, if maybe, for example, parents took advantage of it for baby-sitting ... during the holiday, then I would say, 'Oh my god!' " she said. "But when 83% of the kids who showed up were the kids that we wanted to show up, then that tells me that we may be on to something."

She added that she saw good instruction taking place at the four campuses she visited.

Carvalho decided to open all 100 of the schools where students are struggling the most. This turned out to be key to attendance because relatively few families were willing to send students to an unfamiliar campus.

One choice that drove up costs also increased participation. The district opted to accept any students who showed up, even if they had not registered — and 5,699 students did so.

However, with attendance numbers uncertain, the district could not predict staffing needs — and apparently accepted all teachers and staff who wanted to work, resulting in what teachers described as extensive and expensive overstaffing. Administrators did not intend for class groups to be as small as they were.

Other problems emerged. Some teachers complained they were unable to plan effectively because they did not have advance access to rosters and student data. Under the plan, students were divided by groups into those who needed to catch up and those who would receive enrichment.

Andres Chait, chief of school operations, told board members that a high absentee rate was probably to be anticipated for this optional schooling. Thirty percent of those who registered for summer school also didn't show up, he noted. And nearly 1 in 5 students missed the last Friday before winter break, nearly double the normal absentee rate.

Many secondary students were using the extra days to raise a grade or pass a course — although students also could have turned in extra coursework completed at home. Several thousand students may have done that without attending the extra school days. The district extended the final grading window to Jan. 13, and officials said this week they are still compiling grade data.

Westside parent Basia Richard said she was frustrated that she found out at the last minute that the district decided to open her child's campus.

But she found the extra school time positive.

"If I have a choice for her to stay home and do nothing and trying to entertain her, she might as well go to school," Richard said. "She loves school. She learned a little. I didn't see a reason why she wouldn't go."

ARTHUR DUNCAN, 1925 - 2023

He kept virtuoso tap dancing alive

By Howard Blume

Arthur Duncan, who kept tap dancing visible and relevant across the country on television when most had relegated it to the past and who also broke ground as a Black entertainer, has died at 97.

Duncan was best known for his 18-year run on "The Lawrence Welk Show" as the only Black cast member, and is widely regarded as a trailblazer for a mainstream television variety show. His varied career included appearances on other television shows, in film and in top theater venues around the world.

Duncan died Jan. 4 at a care center near his home in Moreno Valley. It took several days for word of his death — from complications related to a stroke and pneumonia — to get out.

Duncan family

TAPPING ON SCREEN

Dancer Arthur Duncan was best known for his 18-year run on "The Lawrence Welk Show."

It wasn't just Duncan's presence on the Welk show from 1964 to 1982 that mattered, but what he did: virtuoso tap dancing at a time when the art form had become virtually invisible. Tap greats were still around, but jobs had long ago dried up.

Duncan honed his skills as big bands — which often hired tappers — made way for rock bands, and jazz players — who often made their rhythmic inventions alongside hoofers — moved to smaller venues and more experimental musical forms for which tap dancers need not apply. Tap was no longer the dance of the streets, concert halls or Broadway.

"During the 1960s, there were only two shows on television where you could see tap dancing every week: Friday on 'The Mickey Mouse Club' for Talent Round-Up Day, and Sundays with Arthur Duncan with a featured dance on 'The Lawrence Welk Show,' " said dance historian Rusty Frank, author of "Tap! The Greatest Tap Dance Stars And Their Stories 1900-1955." "These were the days before digital recorders, streaming TV and YouTube, so if you wanted to see tap dancing, you had to sit in front of that television at the specific airing time."

Author and dance critic Brian Seibert wrote that "when Welk introduced Duncan as 'the young man who is keeping tap dancing alive,' the epithet was based in fact."

Having to continually develop new routines, Duncan "generally followed a standard recipe of solid rhythm and big finishes, yet the variety of steps was impressive," Seibert wrote in "What the Eye Hears," widely regarded as the most authoritative history of tap.

In one number, Duncan borrowed the idea of dancing atop a piano, something he'd seen performed by the acrobatic Nicholas Brothers and rhythm pioneer John Bubbles. Duncan's daring edge-to-edge slides clearly made the pianist nervous.

Before the Welk show, Duncan had a semi-regular gig on the comparatively short-lived "The Betty White Show" in 1954. White — who became a lifelong friend and later starred in "The Golden Girls" — pointedly refused demands from Southern affiliates to have Duncan removed from her show.

"There were audience members who were not thrilled to have a Black person on the [Welk] show," which also toured around the country, said Ralna English, a dancer and longtime leading singer for the Welk troupe. "I know that. I heard that. Some of these older people were so prejudiced."

Duncan elected to overlook racial slights.

"He had a lot of pride," English said. "He always dressed to the nines. Never had a bad word to say about anybody. He stood tall. Always a gentleman."

Dancer, teacher and entertainer Skip Cunningham used to admire Duncan from afar on the weekly broadcasts.

"He was safe for them and safe for us," said Cunningham, who also is Black and later became Duncan's friend. "They couldn't have picked a better person like that. It wasn't difficult for him to do."

Duncan was born on Sept. 25, 1925, in Pasadena, the sixth of 13 children to Corabel LaMar and James Alfred Ernest Duncan, who worked as a merchant seaman before settling in Southern California, Duncan said in an August interview.

James Duncan later worked for a local oil company, Duncan recalled, and the family became part of a tight-knit Black community in the Pasadena area that valued hard work, thrift and education.

"Our parents were very concerned about education and well-being," Duncan said.

While his siblings pursued other careers — the military, banking, education, firefighting — young Arthur found the arts irresistible, catching the bug when a couple of grade school buddies recruited him to join their would-be dance team.

Soon he was studying formally, getting a discount because his father volunteered to help out at the dance studio. Duncan earned money selling newspapers at a street corner — he'd get extra change by doing a few steps.

He'd use the newspaper gig to get into fine restaurants, where the patrons included performers from the Pasadena Playhouse. Sometimes they'd take an interest in the outgoing, assertive youth who, by the way, was available to dance and sing. A woman who ran a local nightclub gave him a chance.

"I'd come in and do my bit and split. Go home and count the two dollars I had in my pocket," he recalled.

"You wouldn't call it dancing," he said of his early efforts. "I was aggressive and curious and got in the way. So they had to help me to get rid of me. So everything worked out fine, but nothing happened overnight."

As a youth, Duncan also delivered prescriptions and took some pharmacy classes at Pasadena City College, but his heart wasn't in it. He also served in the Army — where he spent much of his time performing for troops — receiving his discharge in 1946.

All the while, he hustled dance gigs.

His early supporters included famed choreographer and director Nick Castle, who tried to keep him working, and Henry Mancini, who created musical arrangements for his routines free of charge.

Duncan always went where the work was: "I went to Australia on a 10-day job. I ended up coming home four years later. That's how it works."

After the Welk show ended, his roles included starring in the Broadway touring company of "My One and Only" with Tommy Tune, said actor Joe Hart, who also had a featured part in that cast.

On film, Duncan kicked off the famous challenge scene in the Gregory Hines movie "Tap" (1989), in which the old greats showed their stuff.

Duncan's TV guest spots included dancing with Dick Van Dyke in the 1992 TV movie "Diagnosis of Murder."

Along the way, Duncan became an important bridge to generations of tappers, including through master classes, after it had looked as though serious tap might cease to exist, said respected Chicago-based tapper and teacher Reginald "Reggio the Hoofer" McLaughlin.

Duncan disliked talking about how he overcame racism, his personal life and his age. He preferred to marvel at his good fortune, credit all who helped him and emphasize tenacity and hard work. And he always focused on the next gig.

He married twice and had no children. His first marriage, to Donna Pena, ended in divorce in 1973. In 2019, he married his longtime friend and companion Carole Carbone.

His survivors include his wife, stepson Sean Carbone and siblings Michael Duncan, Mabel Duncan and Eleanor Starr.

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Legal Notices

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Assessment
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed transfer of approximately 26.4 acres on the east side of the Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center at 16111 Plummer St., North Hills, California, 91343, to the National Cemetery Administration for expansion of the Los Angeles National Cemetery. The Draft EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Part 1500) and VA's NEPA regulations (38 CFR Part 26).
The Draft EA is available at https://www.cfm.va.gov/environmental/index.asp and at the Mid-Valley Regional Library, 16244 Nordhoff Street, North Hills, CA 91343. Please submit comments to vacoenvironment@va.gov with the subject line "Sepulveda Land Transfer EA". Comments must be received by February 26, 2023.

The Department of Parks and Recreation's State Park and Recreation Commission (SPRC) will hold a public hearing to consider certifying the Environmental Impact Report and approval of the Red Rock Canyon State Park General Plan per Public Resources Code Section 5002.3. The hearing will be held at 9:00 a.m. on March 3, 2023, at Lancaster City Hall, 44933 Fern Ave, Lancaster, CA 93534. For information about the hearing, please visit the SPRC webpage at https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=30545. For more information about the general plan, visit the project website at www.redrockcanyongp.com.

Fictitious Business Name Statement NO.: 2023 2023010704
The following person is doing business as:
Fictitious Business Name(s) BF Direct Response Services 419 Larchmont Blvd. #9, Los Angeles, CA 90004. **Registered Owner** (S): Bonaparte Films LLC 419 Larchmont Blvd. #9, Los Angeles, CA 90004. **Business is conducted by:** a Limited Liability Company. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on **January 17, 2023**. I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct. (A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime) **REGISTRANT/CORP/LLC NAME:** Bonaparte Films LLC. **Signature:** Michael Murphy. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of **Los Angeles** County on January 17, 2023. **NOTICE**- in accordance with subdivision (a)of section 17920 A Fictitious Name Statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the County Clerk except, as provided in subdivision (b) of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in the residence address of a registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal state or common law (see section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions code). Dominique Perry, Los Angeles County Clerk. BY: Dominique Perry, Deputy. Published 01/29/23, 02/05/23, 02/12/23, 02/19/23.

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Commercial Finance Lead for The Boston Consulting Group in Manhattan Beach, CA to lead internal and external financial, business analysis, and time and billing reporting. Req. Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv. in Accounting, Finance or related field & 6 years of finance and/or accounting experience within a professional services organization. Up to 15% travel (int'l & dom) required. Salary: $115,000 - $141,000/year. Resume to DVMBCFL@bcg.com.

IT
King's Hawaiian Holding Co Inc. has an oppty for a Bus Sys Anlyst – Fin & Acctg. $140,000.00/yr to $160,000.00/yr. May wrk from our HQ office in Gardena, CA or reside anywhere in US & wrk remotely from home. May wrk at the other US locatns not prsntly known. Email resume w/ Ref# GARVBO to HR@kingshawaiian.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

PETS

MARKETPLACE
To advertise your pets, log on to placeanad.latimes.com/pets-for-sale
Los Angeles Times

Dogs

LABRADOR RETRIEVER Silveroselabs.com AKC Champagne Pups ready now infosilveroselabs@gmail.com **559 246-0676**

GOLDENDOODLE $800. Mini. Phantom chocolate, black, or golden. Under 20 lbs. Allergy friendly, social, smart, and calm. Pet insurance required. UTD shots. **(949) 331-0035**

You're connected. Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

You're connected. Los Angeles Times latimes.com.

Dogs

GOLDENDOODLE 11wk old puppies looking for a loving home. Call/text **3233777442**

Pet Adoptions

Cavalier King Charles Pups Boys/Girls Blenheim, Tri, Ruby. Shots UTD Vet Checked Ready Now call/text $2500-$3000 310-345-7254

Dogs

MALTIPOO Tiny. $800. White or multicolor. Under 5 lbs @ 11 wo. Allergy friendly, social, smart, and calm. Pet insurance required. UTD shots. **(949) 331-0035**

Employment

Vaco, LLC seeks an Associate IT Recruiting Specialist (Application Development) in Los Angeles, CA to identify, screen and qualify candidates for IT Consultant positions. Technically evaluate software engineering candidates for opportunities. Review and understand technical specifications and job requirements to include technical skillsets. Conduct pair-programming technical assessments and coding exercises. Requires a bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related technical discipline or the equivalent with seven years of experience in pair programming (tech screening). Demonstrated ability with programming skills such as JAVA, .Net or Python. Will accept a 3-year foreign bachelor's degree. Salary Range: $136,157 - $150,000. Resumes to L. Moscowitz, 5501 Virginia Way, Suite 120, Brentwood, TN 37027

IT: ADP Technology Services, Inc. seeks a Lead Application Developer at our Pasadena, CA loc. to provide creative & tech. expertise for s/w products under dvlpmnt. Bach's deg. in Comp Sci., Info. Sys., rel. Engg disc. or a rel. field + 7 yrs of rel. exp. reqd. ADP will accept a Master's deg + 3 yrs rel. exp. 2 yrs. of exp. must incl.: Java/J2EE-based Enterprise Web Apps; Dvlping RESTful web srvs using MicroService Archit.; JPA (Hibernate); Maven build, docker containers & deployment using CI/CD pipeline; Rel. dbs & NoSQL dbs; Distributed messaging queue system using Kafka; TDD or BDD; Public Cloud platform AWS or Azure. Annual base salary range for this position is $126,398 to $220,400. To apply, please respond to req. 234831 at http://jobs.adp.com. Alternatively, applicants may mail their resume to the following address referencing req. 234831: 1 ADP Blvd., MS 248, Roseland, NJ 07068.

Cook helper: f/t; prepare Korean dishes - kimchi, noodle, soup, sauce, etc.; job site: Garden Grove, CA; Resume: DMB Group Inc dba Hang A Ri Noodle House 12118 BrookhurstSt., Garden Grove, CA 92840

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume to Young Thai Inc 3255 W Rosecrane Ave Hawthorne CA 90250

Thai Cooks
1 yr exp Resume to Tedpanich Inc 9839 Topanga Canyon Bl Chatsworth CA 91311

DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
MEIR AGAKI DDS INC. Req: Bach Deg, Dentistry or Biology. 24mo. exp as Dental Tech. Manage dental cases start-finish; Capture comprhnsive dgtal patient documentatn usng mult technlgcl pltfrms, incl stndrd triangle language IO & CBCT DICOM SCANS, & CAD/CAM s/w, such as NEMOTEC DENTAL STUDIO; desgn, fabrcate, & tst dental appliances, ensuring complete patient satisfactn. Pay rate: $55,557/yr. Email resume: IMUNOZ.AGAKIDDS@GMAIL.COM Job site/Int: Los Angeles, CA.

Business Support Designer – Buena Park, CA: Create and design marketing materials and other designs involved in a printing company's promotional events, including flyers, logos, displayers to meet specific promotional needs and budgets. Associate Degree in Graphic Design, or a related field. Send res/ltr to All Americanlook Inc., 495 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134. Attn: Tony Lee

IT: ADP Technology Services, Inc. seeks a Principal Application Developer at our Pasadena, CA loc. to participate in relevant aspects of the SDLC, incl. planning, constructions, testing, reviews, & demos. Bach's deg, in Comp. Sci, Comp. Engg, Info. Sys. or a rel'd field + 5 yrs. of rel'd exp. Annual base salary for this position is $147,410 to $291,200. 2 yrs. of exp. must incl: SAP ABAP; SAP BW; SAP Business Objects; BW HANA data models; BEx queries; Analytics using BI tools incl. Web Intelligence; SAP Lumira; ABAP; SAP Webi; BW aggregates, BWA, table indexes, & BW stats; SAP ECC6; & Performance tuning. To apply, please respond to req. 234713 at http://jobs.adp.com. Alternatively, applicants may mail their resume to the following address referencing req. 234713: 1 ADP Blvd., MS 248, Roseland, NJ 07068.

Civil Designer (Mult. Pos.) (Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.; Pasadena, CA): Prepare studies, design criteria, design reports, plans, and specifications for construction and maintenance projects for Civil Engineers' review. Req'ts incl.: Bach's deg. or foreign equiv. in Civil Engg, Mechanical Engg, or a rel. field, & 5 yrs of post-bach's, progressive rel. work exp.; OR a Master's deg. or foreign equiv. in Civil Engg, Mechanical Engg, or a rel. field, & 3 yrs of rel. work exp. Travel to various locations throughout the US is req. up to 10%. Employer will accept any suitable combo. of edu., training, or exp. Salary is $128,045 - $135,400/yr. Interested applicants email CV to HRApply@stantec.com & specify "Civil Designer" in subj. line.

Pluto TV seeks a Data Test Engineer in West Hollywood, CA to make sure data quality and integrity is maintained as new events are added to applications. Telecommuting permitted. $118,123 - $135,000. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com Ref #92186.

Development Engineer 2 sought by Hexagon Manufacturing Intelligence, Inc. in Irvine, CA. Research into algorithms for nonlinear FE analysis. Req: MS+2. $89,378-$107,250/yr. Apply by email to lauren.fuhring@hexagon.com (Must Ref Job Code: CA0208)

Field Engineer/Inspector needed: Send resume to Fountainhead Consulting Corporation, 2400 E. Katella Ave., Ste. 800, Anaheim, CA 92806, wage ranges from 105K to 110K.

Traffic Applications Engineer sought by Econolite Control Products, Inc. in Anaheim, CA to dvlp & execute test plans & test cases for Econolite's traffic controller s/ware products. Req.: BS + 5 yr. exp. OR MS + 2 yr. exp. Telecommuting Permitted. Salary: $147,410 to $180,000/yr. Email resumes to SBurns@econolite.com

Employment

ENGINEERING
Spin Master is accepting resumes for Associate Principal Engineer in Los Angeles, CA: Collaborate with GBU (Design and Brand teams) on generating new design concepts. Requires domestic and international travel up to 10%. Telecommuting permitted. Annual Salary: $127,691 - $198,500. Mail resume to Spin Master, Attn: HR Team., 5880 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016. Must reference Ref. APE-AK.

Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Senior Software Engineer for developing, maintaining, enhancing and testing software systems of moderate to high complexity. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.376

Network Medical Management Inc. has an opening for Lead Software Engineer (V) (Alhambra, CA worksite): Design, dev., test, deploy, maintain, & enhance apps for a nationwide network of physicians & patients. Req'd MA + 36 mos exp. This can be a 100% remote position & can be performed anywhere in the U.S. Salary: $160,000 - $190,000. Send resumes to: Recruitment@networkmedicalmanagement.com. Must reference job title & job code: NMM2023, when applying.

Principal Engineer sought by Cydcor, Inc. in Agoura Hills, CA for technical & solution architecture in Salesforce environments. BS + 5 yrs. exp. Salary $147,410-$150,000/yr. Resumes to sfleet@cydcor.com. EOE.

Senior Project Engineer in Los Angeles, CA: Perform daily jobsite inspections for compliance with safety standards; coordinate job site set up & develop site logistics plan. Review field inspection reports & communicate deficiencies. Salary: $100,048 - $104,400/yr. Mail resume & Ref Job#ME005: Webcor Construction LP, Attn: Recruitment Dept, 2320 Blanding Ave, Ste 200, Alameda, CA 94501

Elevance Health, Inc. seeks Solutions Engineer Advisor Sr. in Woodland Hills, CA to code and maintain complex components of information systems. $147,410 to $157,410 per year. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com ref # 13391.

Executive: Exec VP Worldwide Distribution Home Entertainment in LA, CA. Ld sls tm to ensure max sls & profitability for all trans activity. Devel new rev strm & aclt commercialization of extg & fut cont opp. Req: MBA or US equiv + 2 yrs exp in job, as CEO, President or VP of Sales. Must include 2 yrs of media/entertainment industry exp leading worldwide home entertainment sales, managing sales team, initiating pricing, promotions & customer engagement for company w/ global operations. Salary range $460,000 to $495,000/yr. Send Resume to Blair Fraser, HR, Paramount, 5555 Melrose Ave, LA, CA 90038.

Auditor, Assurance - Financial Accounting Advisory Services, (Financial Services Office) (Senior) (Multiple Positions), Ernst & Young U.S. LLP, Los Angeles, CA. Assist corporate clients to address the strategic accounting and financial reporting challenges facing their businesses and finance functions. Must be able and willing to travel up to 60% on short term notice, of which 10% may be international, to serve client needs. Employer will accept any suitable combination of education, training, or experience. $113,400 per year. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply online, go to: ey.com/en_us/careers and click on "Careers - Job Search", then "Search Jobs" (Job Number - 1395601).

FINANCE
BYD Motors LLC has an opening in Los Angeles, CA for Accounting Manager to be responsible for the accounting and reporting for financial management of BYD PPE business. Wage range $90,000 to $110,000. Ref job code C# 5787158 & mail resume to: BYD Coach & Bus LLC. Attn: HR, 1800 S. Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 90015

Financial Analyst Wanted – engage in accounting and financial reporting, examining and submitting financial analysis, engage in financial modeling and variance analysis. Salary of $65,666/year. Please mail resume to: Scott Ngo, To & Scott LLC, 301 Forest Ave., Laguna Beach, CA 92651. No phone calls please.

Glazier for glass installer. Mail to Smiley Glass, 7655 Winnetka Ave., #2154, Winnetka, CA 91396.

Elevance Health, Inc. seeks IT Quality Control Advisor in Woodland Hills, CA to analyze business requirements and coordinate with business and development team to derive test requirements. $113,072 - $123,072 per year. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com ref #17277.

Lending USA LLC, finan. slns. provider, in Sherman Oaks, CA. has opngs for Finan. Analyst: Des., impl., deliver, & analy. Ent. data to prod. actionable analyt. insights & mdls. to supp. Fin. & risk teams. Profit. & risk anlys. to supp. Bus. gwth., prod./pricing enh. & risk mngmnt. & strats. deploy. into bus. decis. Eng.; prvd. mon. & adt. report after deploy. Prvd. data supp. in rsp. to one-time & recur. rqs. Transform data from nat. frmt. to usable, r/a data. Mon. data qlty. & take c/a; auto. data qlty. mon. & ipv. adt. caps. Dev. data vis. Req. US MS + c/w.
Mail res: HR, 15303 Ventura Blvd, Ste 850, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Employment

JOB
Software Engineer Software Engineer for online retailer. Must have Master Degree in CS or CE & relevant experience, $140,000 / yr. Send resume to Fabletics, Inc. 800 Apollo Street, El Segundo, CA 90245 or email to rdeguzman@techstyle.com.

Beauty Product Development Manager - GCC Competition research analysis & trend forecasting. Expand business in the GCC market. Manage new product development life cycle depending on customer preferences. Develop pricing strategies and vendor management. Maintain brands international standards with the GCC customers. Assist customers with documentation required for product registration in the respective markets as per ministry guidelines. BBA and 2 years' experience. Mail resume: Jon Davler Inc, Attn: D. Sheen, 9440 Gidley St., Temple City, CA 91780.

Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Development and Operational Engineer Manager to Analyze, design, develops code and implement programs in one or more programming languages, for a specific assigned software system or systems. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.280

Manager sought by CNM LLP in Woodland Hills, CA to manage strategic tech'l acctg advisory engagements & lead multi-disciplinary teams serving clients in multiple industries. Req.: BS/for eq + 4 yr. exp. *Telecommuting Permitted*. Salary Range: $106,974 to 125,000/yr. Email resume: eagoston@cnmllp.com. REF: MLW-22

Project Manager (Bush Interiors, Inc. dba Jamie Bush + Co) (Los Angeles, CA) Orgnz wrk effrts of team & act as primry facltr of communctn w/ client & team; Ld tm to formltn of projct dsgn philsphy, incptn to cmpltn; Wrk w/ Princpl & Offc Mngr on prep of fee agreemnts & contrcts; Monitor progrss, id issues, dvlp stratgs for presntn to clnt; Intrfc w/ vendrs & subcontrctrs to coord prodctn & projct schedls; Maintn ovrsght during constrctn & attnd progrss review meetngs; Obtn subcontrctr quotes; Resrch & promote systm apps to imprv quality of wrk. Exp reqd: Exp mngng staff in fast-paced studio envrnmnt; wrkg in resdntl & hosptlty dsgn, & dvlp & coord constrctn docs & spec pckgs; Strng tech knowlg of dsgn genres & architctr histry; Flncy in AutoCAD, ArchiCAD, SketchUp & Adobe Suite; Profcncy in MS Word, Excel, Outlook & Dsgn Mngr; Dvlpd aesthetc sense in use of matrls, color, form, txtr, proprtn, compstn; Wrkg knowlg of bldg systms, eng concpts & constrctn prcs; & Ablty to wrk w/ indvdls: clients, consltnts, code offcls & constrctn trades. Reqs BS/BA or frgn equiv in Interior Dsgn, Interior Architr or Architr or rltd fld, & 8 yrs exp as Interior Dsgnr or rltd occ. Opt wrk from home partlly availb. Occsnl projct-bsd trvl w/in U.S. Salary: $81,474 - $135,365. Send C.V. to Mony@jamiebush.com

Guthy Renker, LLC seeks QA Manager in El Segundo, CA to manage, hire, mentor, and guide the Quality team. Telecommuting permitted. Offered salary $120,000 to $155,000 per year. Apply at www.jobpostingtoday.com, Ref #48251.

Regional Sales Manager sought by Gandia Blasco USA Inc in Los Angeles, CA to open & manage new showroom in Los Angeles, CA, making it the regional location for the US West Coast & Latam. Minimum of Bachelor's degree or foreign equiv in Business Admin, Business Mgmt, or rltd + 3 yrs exp in job offered or rltd required. Interested candidates apply by mail to Pedram Shokouhi; 52 Greene St, Ground Flr, New York, NY 10013 ($168k)

Austin Commercial L.P. seeks Aviation Project Manager in Los Angeles, CA to oversee construct projs by planning, scheduling, & coord all proj phases. Reqs Master's degree in Civil Eng, Construct Mgmt, Architecture, or related field & 3 yrs of exp working in aviation projs; utilizing Proj Mgmt softw, such as CMiC, Prolog, Bluebeam, &/or Autodesk BIM 360; & perf cost projection, scheduling, & budget reviews. $119,267.00 per yr. Email resume to careers@austin-ind.com

Employment

Marketing Specialist (Santa Fe Springs, CA) Collect & analyze data on customer demographics, preferences, needs, and buying habits to identify potential markets and factors affecting product demand. Conduct research on consumer opinions & marketing strategies, collaborating with marketing professionals, statisticians, pollsters, and other professionals. Analyze market conditions or trends. 40hrs/wk, Bachelor's degree in Business / Marketing or related required. Resume to Kreassive LLC Attn. Kelly Choi, 14071 Stage Rd, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

Hermes Global Logistics Corp. located in Cypress, CA is seeking a mechanic with a High School diploma and 2 years experience. Salary: $61,755 per year. Please send your resume to: farhad@hermesglc.com

Dental assistant. Certificate. Salary $35,859.00/year. Resume: Roland Yakubov DDS Inc, 6430 Bellingham Ave, North Hollywood, CA 91606

Medical Assistant Asst in eval pts & perf MI tests. Reqs: 1 yr exp in job offrd or rltd healthc pstn & CPR cert from AHA or ARC. 40hrs/wk. Salary: $36,795.00 – $52,000 per yr. Job Site: Woodland Hills, CA. Email Resume to F&M Radiology Medical Center, Inc. at bellafrmc@aol.com.

Office Manager; Saint George Insurance Brokerage, Inc; Commerce CA; Devel & manage marketing training events & provide customer service to clients. Salary is $80,808/yr. Mail res to: HR Manager, 7668 Telegraph Rd, Commerce, CA, 90040

Pharmacist (Diamond Bar, CA) Perform pharmacist duties. Doctor of Pharmacy and CA Pharmacist license. $92851/yr. Resume to: JJ's Pharmacy, LLC. 21010 Golden Springs Dr, Diamond Bar, CA 91789

Content Producer in Fullerton, CA. Min reqmnt: Bach. deg. in Film, Producing, Broadcast, or rel. Mail resume to ODK Media, Inc., Attn: Nicky Kim, 221 N. Harbor Blvd., # E, Fullerton, CA 92832.

Video Game Programmer; Funktronic Labs; South El Monte, CA: Asst in develpmt, testing, & analysis of video games for distribution on different platforms. $52,790/yr. Mail res to: Attn: HR 2656 Chico Ave., South El Monte, CA 91733.

Project Leader/Principal (The Boston Consulting Group, Inc. - Los Angeles, California): Manage the design and development of long-term business strategies, including managing case team responsibilities; oversee business development, client relationships, project planning, and the preparation of outputs. Domestic/international travel required based on company/client need. Requires Bachelor's degree in business administration, management science, or a quantitative field related to a BCG client industry and 5 years exp. as a management consultant, business analyst, or quantitative analyst which must include at least 1 year in management strategy. Will alternatively accept a Master's degree (or higher) in business administration, management science, or quantitative field related to a BCG client industry and 3 years exp. as a management consultant, business analyst, or quantitative analyst which must include at least 1 year in management strategy. Salary: $225,400 - $268,400. Send resume to LosPLP@bcg.com. Mult. pos. avail.

Columbia West Education Group (Columbia West College) in LA, CA - F/T Student Recruiter. Prep social media mat to targt internl studnts, respond to prspective students inquiries, share feedback with Dirctrs. Rqd: BA in Marktng, Business Admin or rltd (Forgn Dip Ok)+24mos markting or sales rltd job. Resumes:judy@columbiawestcollege.edu

Japanese restaurant seeks a Market Research Analyst in Newport Beach, CA. HS Diploma/GED and 2 yrs. of exp. as Mkt Res Anlst., Sales and/or Mktg Mgr. or rltd req. From $44,803 per yr. Send resume to 345 Goldstream Dining Co. (dba: San Shi Go): 205 Main St., Newport Beach, CA 92661 Attn: HR.

Multiple openings; Server: Greet customers and present menus; Ohana Family, Inc. 3630 Wilshire Blvd. 2nd Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90010

Sales Account Manager sought by Econolite Control Products, Inc. in Anaheim, CA to Sell Econolite's innovative Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) products & services, primarily to government transportation agencies. Req: BS + 10 yr. exp. 30% travel. Salary: $118,456 - $124,738/yr. Email resumes to SBurns@econolite.com

Employment

Farmers Group (Woodland Hills, CA) seeks Data Scientist II to apply math./statistical logic to help make informed decisions & solve problems. Occ. US travel. Remote work option. Salary $135,000/y. Apply at Farmers.com/Careers, Job ID: 17420

SECURITY
SECURITY
$15-$18.50 hr no exp nec. will train, pt/ft all 3 shifts in LA , OC. 8a-6p 7 days. Montebello 323-889-1922

Application Development Specialist (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Develop, design, and maintain software products or systems to support client strategies. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00140582). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is $124,987.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer – Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

S/W QA ENGR
Phyn LLC has an oppty in El Segundo, CA for a QA Engr. $118,123.00/yr to $126,505.00/yr. Email resume w/Ref# ESSIN to Talent@phyn.com. Must be legally auth to work in the US w/o spnsrshp. EOE

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER
ShopNation, Inc. (Los Angeles, CA) Resp for collab w/ prdct ownrs, prjct mngrs, QA tstrs & othr SW engrs to create new, engagng & usfl audnc exps. Reqs Bachlrs in Comp Sci, Comp Info Sys, a rltd fld or frgn equiv + 3 yrs prgrssvly rspnsble exp w/ web dev. Exp must incl: 3 yrs exp wrking in Javascript dev using ES6; 3 yrs exp w/CSS3 or SASS & HTML5; 3 yrs exp w/mbile-frst, rspnsve website dev; 3 yrs exp w/NodeJS & Express frmwrk; 3 yrs exp w/Freemarkers, Handlebars & React; 3 yrs exp w/js dev tools like NPM & Webpack; 3 yrs exp w/contnus intgrtn & atmtn via tools like CircleCI & Jenkins; 3 yrs exp intrctng w/REST APIs; 3 yrs exp w/prgrmmng langs othr thn Javascript (e.g. PHP, Ruby, Python, etc); 3 yrs exp w/Git, Github & versn ctrl; 2 yrs exp w/AWS; 3 yrs exp wrkng w/ in agile mthdlgy using JIRA or simlr mgmt tools. Role prmts FT telecmmtng. Mst be willing to trvl to HQ in Los Angeles, CA 4x/yr for onsite mtngs & vists. Pay Range $144,000-180,900. Actual pay may vry & be abve or blw the rnge bsd on vrious fctrs incldng but not limtd to wrk location, exp & prfrmnce. CV to kzelenin@dotdashmdp.com, Ref. MJ-SN1

Experian Information Solutions, Inc. in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking to fill the position of Software Development Staff Engineer Senior to Gather requirements, analyze and provide technical design specifications and solutions. Role incl. a comprehensive benefits pkg including hlth, life and disability insurance, PTO incl 12 paid holidays & parental & family care leave, employee stock purchase plan and 401(k) plan w/ company match. Send resumes and salary inquiries to Amy Harmon, HR, via email at Amy.Harmon@experian.com. Must reference job code: 20596.308

Software Engineer II (Los Angeles, CA) Sony Interactive Entertainment LLC: Dvlp user mgmt API's to assist PlayStation Prtnrs w/ SSO into PlayStation environ, web dvlpmt, & Okta admin & spprt. Reqs Master's in CS, Comp Eng'g, or rel. fld or equiv, & at least 1 yr of exp providing arch. spprt to dvlp co. proprietary apps & pltfrm native to the cloud. Prior exp must incl at least 1 yr of exp dsgn'g & dvlp'g sw for shared & common srvcs incl ingress & egress proxies, common email srvcs, logging & metrics pipelines; maintaining & updating sw codes to ensr optimal performance & resiliency of co. proprietary sw; maintaining sw associated w/ continuous integration & deployment pipelines; & in executing duties, util'g JavaScript, Golang, AWS srvcs incl ECS, DynamoDB, EKS, ECR, Event bus, Kafka, & Solace. Telecommuting &/or wrk'g frm home may be permissible pursuant to co. policies. Salary range: $113,200 – $169,800/yr. Send resumes to SIE-Job-Postings@sony.com & indicate job code RA6240025. EOE.

Sr. Software Engineers III, Los Angeles, CA: Dvlp enterprise apps & integrate w/ legacy sys, in house apps, accounting sys & CRM app. Use Visual C#, Dot Net Platform, MS SQL & Oracle databases & std web tech such as html, JavaScript, soap, Json etc. Supervise Software Enggs. Telecomm permitted. Salary: $147,410. Send res to: Nowcom, LLC 4751 Wilshire Blvd, Suite 205, Los Angeles, CA 90010.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

LNBOOG
○ ☐ ○ ○ ☐ ☐

ADARIF
☐ ○ ☐ ☐ ☐ ○

DRUYEL
○ ☐ ○ ☐ ○ ☐

TUWLOA
○ ☐ ☐ ○ ○ ☐

CRUYSR
☐ ☐ ☐ ○ ○ ☐

AHINEL
☐ ☐ ☐ ○ ○ ☐

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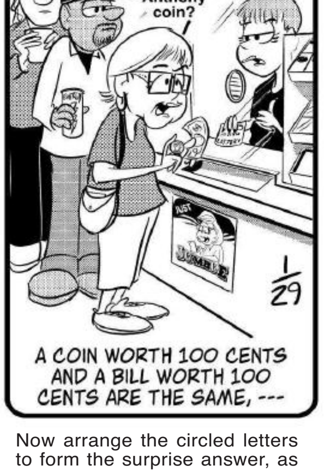
Would you rather I use a bill or a Susan B. Anthony coin?
It doesn't matter to me. A buck's a buck.
1/29
A COIN WORTH 100 CENTS AND A BILL WORTH 100 CENTS ARE THE SAME, ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

○○○○○○ ○○○ ○○○○○○

L.A. County making strides with COVID

[**Pandemic,** from B1]
seeking treatment if necessary, Ferrer said.

"While there remains uncertainty moving forward because the virus continues to mutate, our metrics provide clear evidence that our community immunity level and protective measures have lessened the impact of COVID-19 on many residents and workers in our county," she said.

Another factor, she said, is that the sprawling Omicron variant has dominated the viral landscape for more than a year.

"We have done our very worst when we have gone from one variant to another," she said. "We went from Delta to Omicron, and Omicron devastated us that first winter."

But a period of relative stability has allowed officials to better hone their tools.

"We know our vaccines are effective against Omicron. They're working really well," Ferrer said. "Some of us have been infected with Omicron, and we have some natural immunity. That combination, I think, is really helping us this winter."

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

SOME shoppers in Glendale wear masks outdoors on Black Friday last year. Coronavirus cases have declined to the point that L.A. County health officials have relaxed their broad recommendation of indoor mask use.

California as a whole, like L.A. County, is noting steady improvement. Barring some late-season reversal of fortune, this winter is set to be the most moderate of the pandemic by far.

According to a Times analysis of state data, reported cases peaked in early December at about 12,345 a day, or 221 cases a week for every 100,000 residents. (A rate of 100 or more is considered high.) That's 10% of the peak seen about a year ago, when the state was reporting 123,611 cases a day.

In Los Angeles County, the number of coronavirus cases this fall and winter peaked at 3,929 a day during the first week of December, or 272 a week for every 100,000 residents. That's 9% of last winter's peak, when the county was reporting nearly 42,000 cases a day.

Transmission has declined to the point that L.A. County health officials have relaxed their broad recommendation that everyone mask up indoors while in public. Mask use is still required in certain settings, such as healthcare facilities and nursing homes, and is encouraged for those aboard public transit.

The number of coronavirus-positive patients statewide has continued its steady march downward. As of Thursday, the number was just under 2,700 — the least since Thanksgiving.

Since the height of the latest winter surge — 4,648 coronavirus-positive patients on Jan. 3 — the number has fallen 42%. Still, that is 78% higher than the autumn lull of 1,514.

The most recent high hospitalization mark was about one-third the peak of the initial Omicron surge: 15,435 on Jan. 21, 2022. During the pandemic's first winter wave, nearly 22,000 coronavirus-positive patients were hospitalized on some days.

COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are projected to continue declining for at least the next few weeks. However, state officials noted that "these projections are dynamic and may change due to unpredictable events such as emerging variants."

"While cases and hospitalizations are projected to continue declining, COVID-19 hospital admission rates are elevated across the state, and emergent variants such as XBB.1.5 remain a concern," the California Department of Public Health wrote in a statement to The Times.

Some experts had expressed concern that XBB.1.5, described as perhaps the most infectious strain of the coronavirus, could drive a surge in infections and hospitalizations. But it appears this has not come to pass.

Dr. Eric Topol, director of the Scripps Research Translational Institute in La Jolla, noted Wednesday that the U.S. has passed through the peak of the subvariant-fueled wave — with a more than 30% reduction in hospitalizations over the last two weeks.

"This reflects a high level of infection and vaccine-induced immunity relative to a troublesome variant," he wrote on Twitter.

Though XBB.1.5 is the dominant version of the coronavirus nationwide, that does not appear to be true for California. State health officials most recently estimated its proportion at 33.9%, behind BQ.1.1, which accounts for 38.6% of cases.

It's not inconceivable that case trends could reverse as XBB.1.5 expands its footprint in California.

> 'We know our vaccines are effective against Omicron. They're working really well. Some of us have been infected with Omicron, and we have some natural immunity. That combination, I think, is really helping us this winter.'
>
> — BARBARA FERRER,
> L.A. County public health director

Though more infectious, it's unclear whether XBB.1.5 is more virulent than preceding subvariants.

"From reports by several countries, no early signal of increase in severity has been observed, however the number of cases associated with XBB.1.5 is still low, so it is difficult to assess severity," the World Health Organization wrote Wednesday.

The updated COVID-19 booster, a bivalent vaccine that has been available since September, has helped prevent illness from Omicron XBB-related variants, according to a report published Wednesday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Bivalent vaccines appear to provide additional protection," said the report. "All persons should stay up to date with recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including receiving a bivalent booster dose when they are eligible."

As case count dips, indoor mask recommendation eases

[**Masks,** from B1]
tion home.

State occupational health and safety rules still require workers who have been exposed to the coronavirus to wear masks at their work site for 10 days after their exposure. Recently infected individuals who have exited isolation because they've tested negative on a rapid test must still wear a mask at work through the 10th day following onset of COVID-19 symptoms or their first positive test.

L.A. County had strongly recommended universal indoor masking in public settings since mid-November, when its coronavirus case rate topped 100 cases a week for every 100,000 residents, a level that is considered high.

The shift in the county's official masking stance came a little more than a week ago, after the region's weekly coronavirus case rate fell below 100.

L.A. County's case rate has continued to fall since then. The county was reporting 66 cases a week for every 100,000 residents, or 951 cases a day for the seven-day period that ended Friday. The county remains in the low COVID-19 community level outlined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Authorities note official case tallies are probably a significant undercount at this point in the pandemic — a byproduct of increased use of at-home tests, the results of which are not reliably reported to public health agencies, as well as people testing less regularly.

However, wastewater surveillance data also suggest coronavirus transmission is dropping.

For weeks, L.A. County reached a plateau, with wastewater concentrations hovering at about 70% of the peak noted during last summer's surge. But in early January, levels plunged to about 29% of the summer peak, according to data released Thursday. The county considers that to be of "low concern," according to Ferrer.

"These numbers confirm that the decline in transmission is both real and significant. And hopefully the decline in transmission will be followed soon by a decrease in deaths," she said.

Promisingly, levels of flu and respiratory syncytial virus, also known as RSV, also have fallen significantly in recent weeks. There is, however, a risk that flu activity could rebound this spring, Ferrer said, and RSV is expected to continue to circulate.

FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

KEVIN GUERRERO, left, and Rafael Guerrero relax at the Glendale Galleria while shopping in November. So on this bench, 50% of the shoppers were masked.

"The same measures we've been accustomed to for COVID-19 — frequent handwashing, staying home when sick, wearing a mask in crowded places — will also continue to prevent transmission of these other respiratory viruses," Ferrer said.

Hospitalizations also are declining. As of Thursday, there were 722 coronavirus-positive patients in hospitals in L.A. County. That has been nearly cut in half since early December.

The apparent peak recorded this fall and winter — 1,308 on Dec. 8 — is slightly lower than the summer high point of 1,329 on July 20, and significantly below last winter's wave, which maxed out at 4,814.

The record for coronavirus-positive hospitalizations came during the first winter of the pandemic, when vaccinations were still in short supply and hospital morgues were overflowing. That came on Jan. 5, 2021, when 8,098 were hospitalized.

COVID-19 deaths have stabilized but are still relatively high compared with last summer. L.A. County has been averaging 140 deaths per week for nearly a month, higher than last summer's max of 122, but lower than the prior winter's peak of 513. L.A. County recorded 43 COVID-19 deaths per week during its lowest point in the fall.

Even with the county relaxing its masking recommendation, Ferrer said she keeps hers on as much as possible in indoor public settings. "I'm an older person. I'm over 65, and I don't want to get sick," she said.

But Ferrer has started eating indoors at restaurants if no outdoor option is available, since the risk of viral transmission is lower. She said she keeps her mask on unless she's eating or drinking, and goes to places where she thinks the ventilation is decent.

"Everyone knows I love to be outside. So mostly I try to be outside," she said. "But ... I go inside when that's not an opportunity."

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Employment

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Employment

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Employment

Application Development Associate Manager (Accenture LLP; Los Angeles, CA): Develop or update project plans for information technology projects, including project objectives, technologies, systems, information specifications, schedules, funding, and staffing. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 80% of the time to meet client needs. Multiple Positions Available. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# R00140576). Pursuant to the California Transparency Bill, the offered wage for this role is $121,742.00 per year. Equal Opportunity Employer – Minorities/Women/Vets/Disabled.

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Los Angeles Times Classified
Los Angeles Times

Drummer insists that the beat goes on

[**Lopez,** from B1]

On my latest visit, Hideg reenacted his fall and retraced the path he had crawled — about 15 feet from the bathroom to the kitchen. He felt dehydrated and needed a drink. Near the kitchen, he managed to pull himself to his feet, only to fall again.

Hideg ended up flat on his back on the kitchen floor in considerable pain. He reached for a nearby water jug, but he'd badly injured his right shoulder and was too weak to open it. He had stopped wearing a necklace medallion that can be used to call for help because it was overly sensitive and made frequent, unnecessary calls.

So he lay there on the floor, through the night, hoping he'd regain the strength to rise back up. He estimates he was there about 12 hours, until the phone rang from its perch on top of a stack of filing crates near the kitchen. Hideg's cane was close enough for him to stretch out, grasp it, and use it to hook down the crate.

He answered the phone. It was someone from Meals On Wheels, asking why he hadn't buzzed in the delivery person at the front gate. Hideg told the caller what happened, then called 911.

At the hospital, doctors found one possible explanation for Hideg's dizziness, in addition to an irregular heartbeat. He had COVID-19. Hideg, who is diabetic and a survivor of bladder cancer, was hospitalized for several days. After his release, he visited an orthopedic specialist and got some devastating news.

His shoulder tendons were so severely torn, they couldn't be repaired.

"I am a fighter," said the man whose love of jazz began as a kid, when he worked at a movie theater in Hungary and caught glimpses of Louis Armstrong and Glenn Miller. Hideg reminded me that he had survived war, endured a daring escape from Europe in 1956 during the Hungarian Revolution, and arrived in the U.S., penniless, with his wife.

"I am a guy who works with what I have, and this doesn't mean I'm going to give up" music, he said. "This is the reason I came to America."

I shared this update recently with drummer John Densmore, who made a donation to Hideg in 2017 after reading that he was in danger of losing his apartment. By the way, Densmore's wife, painter and photographer Ildiko von Somogyi, is the daughter of Hungarians who left the country about the same time as Hideg.

I told Densmore, who was inducted in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the Doors, that Hideg was back to teaching and hosting a weekly jam session at Stein on Vine, the Hollywood music shop frequented for decades by some of the biggest names in jazz. When Densmore heard that Hideg couldn't move his right upper arm, but was drumming with a wrist motion, he wanted to see it for himself.

He recalled from the 2017 story that Hideg is an eternal optimist.

"He has this smile on his face, and somehow that got there because of music," said Densmore, 78, whose love of music extends to jazz and classical (I wrote recently about his friendship with L.A. Phil conductor Gustavo Dudamel). In his book "The Seekers," Densmore pays tribute to jazz drummer Elvin Jones. He says the way Jones and sax great John Coltrane meshed helped inspire his own work with Jim Morrison of the Doors.

On a recent Saturday, Stein on Vine owner Gary Chen unlocked the back music studio where Stan Getz, Ray Brown and a host of all-stars once gathered. Hideg set up his snare drum in the company of pianist Cengiz Yaltkaya, alto saxophonist Jay Golden and guitarist Leo Vaz. This outfit, which Hideg calls the Harmony club jazz study group, was tuning up when Densmore walked in.

"John, nice to see you," Hideg said. "I remember the letter you sent me, that you had a Hungarian fiancee. You still have her?"

"We're married now," Densmore said. Hideg, with an approving smile, called him an honorary Hungarian.

Hideg told Densmore he could no longer play the drums, but that wasn't true. A month or so after his fall, Hideg had begun playing again at home. He can't use the whole kit because of his injury. But he's able to hold a stick and flick the snare with his right wrist. He lays his left hand on the drum skin and taps rhythm on the rim of the snare.

"Let's do this," Hideg said, calling out the first number, a Cole Porter beauty called "What Is This Thing Called Love."

"A one, two, a one, two, three four," Hideg counted, setting the time on his drum as Yaltkaya, an accomplished pianist, played the intro. The sax and guitar jumped in and the band meshed beautifully, but Hideg put on the brakes and told the band to start again from the top, but up-tempo this time, and brighter.

Densmore, seated next to Hideg, couldn't help himself. He reached into Hideg's stash of percussion instruments and kept rhythm on cowbell and a set of stumpy sticks called claves. It was now a five-member band, cooking in sync, and nobody's smile was wider than Hideg's.

When they were done, Hideg asked if "this other drummer" would take over the snare for the next number.

"I'd like to play a ballad with brushes," Densmore said. "Would that be all right?"

He traded places with Hideg, who needed help getting from one chair to the other.

Hideg watched the band; I watched him celebrate this moment.

This is a man whose monthly disability income is still less than his rent, which runs just over $1,000 a month. If not for what's left in his GoFundMe account, which was set up for him in 2017 by readers who saw his story in The Times, he'd lose his apartment.

He's a man who accomplished all he had dreamed of and more after rebelling against Soviet control and escaping under cover of darkness with his pianist wife, now deceased. He was a janitor in New York before heading to Los Angeles, where he worked his way up in the music business, formed a band — Steve Hideg and the Continentals — and booked gigs back when TV shows had live bands.

He was never rich, or particularly famous, but music always carried him.

Hideg sat in perfect contentment, listening as the hottest new band in L.A. played "I Should Care," a soulful standard. Densmore, channeling Elvin Jones, brushed like a painter working on canvas.

"How about a nice hand for John," Hideg gushed as the last notes faded.

But Hideg wasn't letting Densmore off the stage just yet. He announced that guitarist Vaz was a rocker who could sing, and he asked him to play "Wild Thing" by the Troggs.

Hideg then looked at Densmore and dead-panned, "Now, can you play rock 'n' roll?"

He can.

They did.

Bravo.

On a favorite Latin jazz tune of mine, "Poinciana," Hideg handed me a brush and we played his snare together, which brought down the level of the music but gave me a thrill.

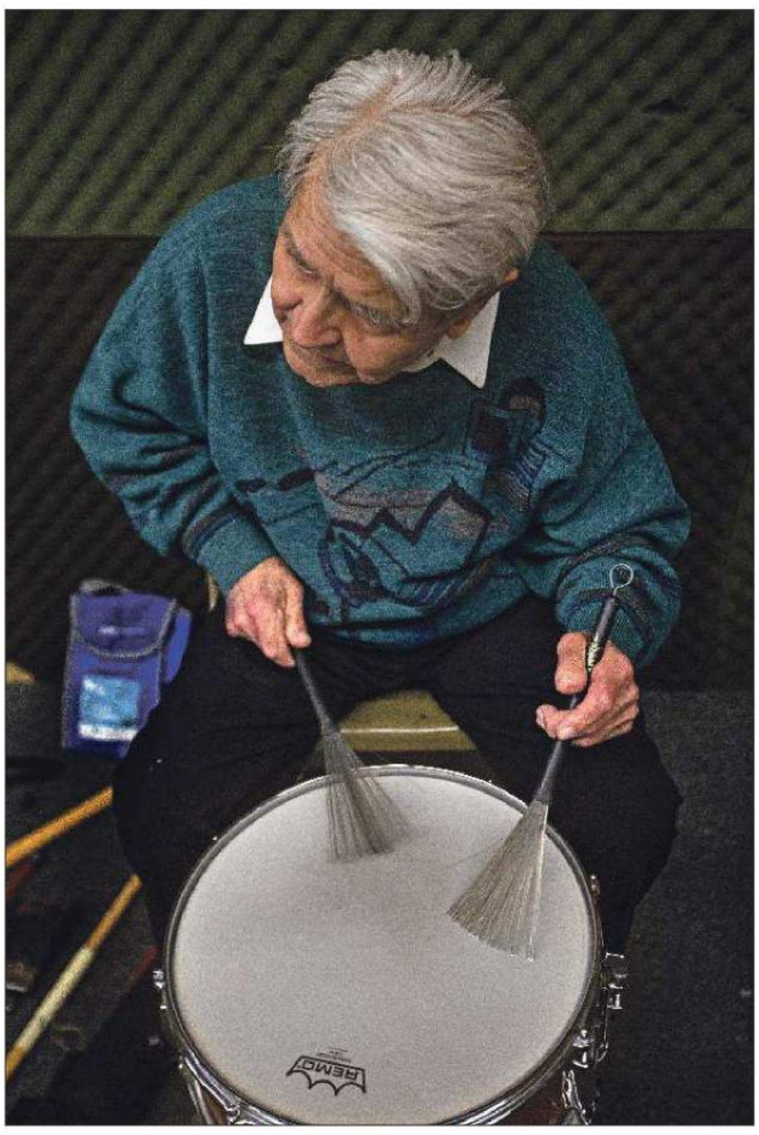
"It feeds you, and music feeds me," Densmore said. "So we keep doing it."

On his way out, he leaned down and said to Hideg: "Thank you so much for your inspiration."

steve.lopez@latimes.com

Photographs by FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

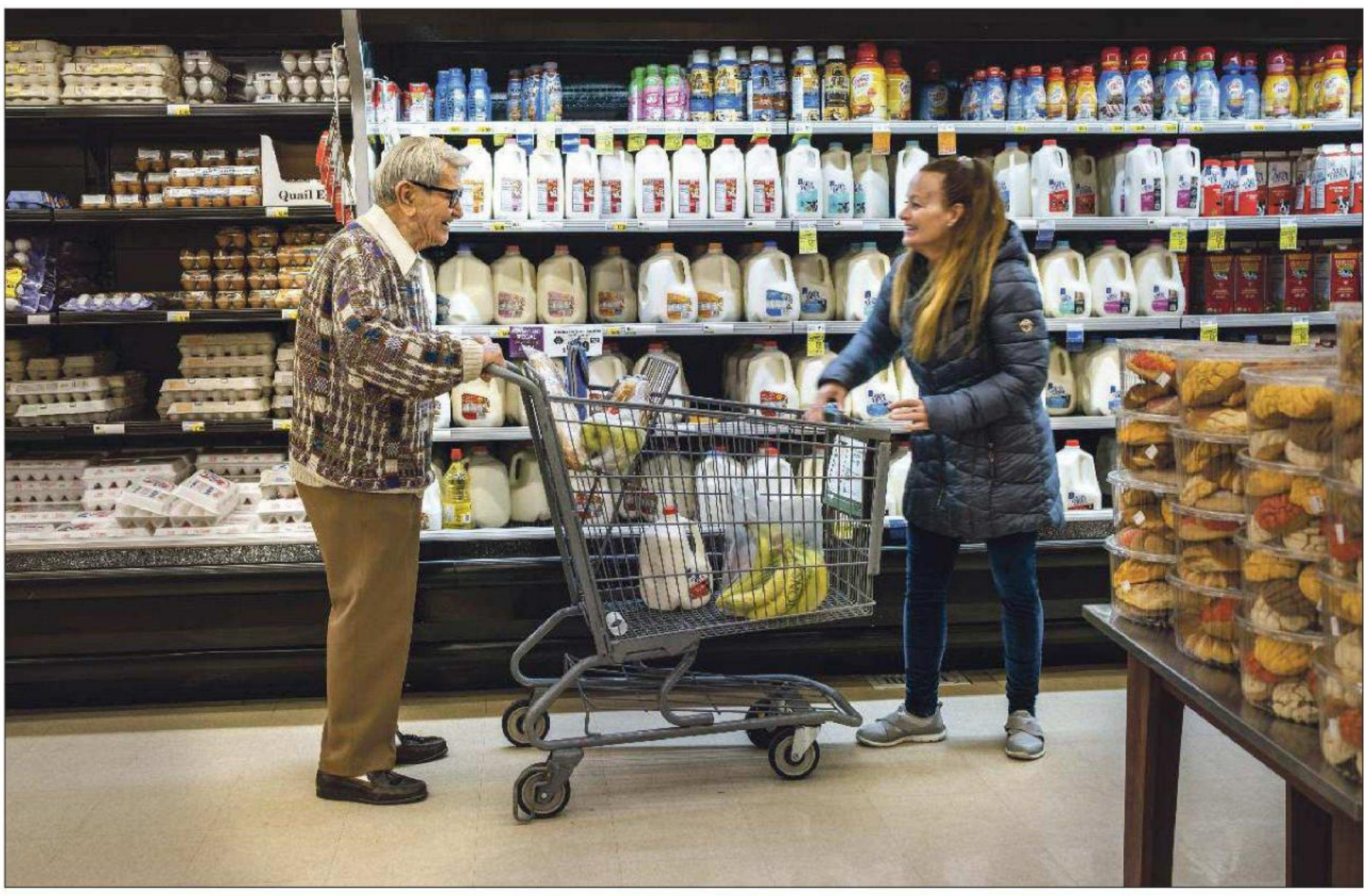
DRUMMER Steve Hideg, left, plays with guitarist Leo Vaz in the studio at Stein on Vine. "I am a fighter," said the man whose love of jazz began as a kid, when he worked at a movie theater in Hungary and caught glimpses of Louis Armstrong and Glenn Miller.



HIDEG CAN'T use the whole kit because of his injury. But he's able to hold a stick and flick the snare with his right wrist.

HIDEG told ex-Doors drummer John Densmore, here tossing his sticks, that he could no longer play the drums, but it wasn't true.

CAREGIVER Helen Major, right, serves a traditional Hungarian dish to Hideg. They both came to the U.S. from that country.



HIDEG shops with Major at a supermarket. He was a janitor in New York before heading to L.A., where he worked his way up in the music business, formed a band — Steve Hideg and the Continentals — and booked gigs back when television shows had live bands.

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Los Angeles Times

BARNARD, Barbara

April 16, 1932 - December 19, 2022

Barbara Ann Barnard died peacefully on December 19, 2022, at her home in San Diego, California, at 90. She was the youngest child of Arthur and Ada Nelson, and graduated from Hamilton High School, Los Angeles, in 1950. Shortly after graduation, she married James Timm, and had three children, James, Susan, and Brian. In 1982, she married Louis Barnard. Together, they attended Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Beverly Hills, where they offered their love and service until moving to San Diego in 2018. She had a quick smile, an easy sense of humor, and enjoyed the company of friends and family as often as possible, especially if it could be an excuse to visit one of her favorite eateries like The Apple Pan, Johnnie's Pastrami, or Lawry's Prime Rib. She was a true-blue Dodgers fan, and her motto was "Everything's Better in Santa Monica". Barbara is preceded in death by parents Arthur and Ada Nelson, husband Louie, sister Myrtle, son James, and daughter Susan. She is survived by her first husband, James Timm, son Brian, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Stories live on.
Tell theirs.
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Los Angeles Times

DICKINSON , Virginia Norris

May 1, 1930 - January 13, 2023

Our beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Virginia/ Gigi, passed away peacefully in her home in the company of her children.

Virginia had been in declining health for several years, but always showed love for her family, retained her passion for music and was determined to make one last trip to Las Vegas with her kids. She made it… And won big at the blackjack table and the slots!

Predeceased by her husband, George, Virginia is survived by her four children, Bill, Bruce, Doug and Laura, their loves Cecelia, Christine, Elizabeth and Joe, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Virginia graduated from Beverly Hills High School and Stanford University. A few years later, she met the love of her life, George Dickinson. They were married for over 66 wonderful years.

Throughout her life, Virginia directed her energies to her family and to the community at large. She served on the board of the Junior League of Los Angeles, was president of Las Madrinas (for the benefit of Children's Hospital Los Angeles) and was very active in The Luminaires (for the benefit of the Doheny Eye Institute). She donated and donated her time and resources to many organizations in the L.A. area, including Good Samaritan Hospital. She was also General Chairman of the Women's Auxiliary of The Los Angeles Country Club.

Virginia loved playing bridge, golfing and traveling with friends and her dear George. She worked miracles in the kitchen and cooked tirelessly "for the troops". After a certain age, however, she much preferred making reservations to making dinner.

Her warmth, smile, intelligence, humor and energy will be in our hearts and minds forever.

Goodbye dear Mom, Gigi, Ginny, Jinky.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Children's Hospital Los Angeles or Good Samaritan Hospital.

FARKAS, Rose

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GOODMAN, Ross V

April 25, 1938 - January 8, 2023

4-25-1938 - 1-8-2023

Ross grew up in the San Fernando Valley, raised largely by his beloved grandparents Fred and Winnifred Timbers. He loved to reminisce about his early days in the Valley and how proud he was of his mother, Thelma, working with the Flying Tigers out of Burbank Airport. After following in Thelma's footsteps at North Hollywood High School, where he played football (wearing number 51) and became an All-City offensive lineman, Ross joined the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Ramstein, Germany where he met and married his wife, Ilse Brenner, and started a family with the birth of his son, Marc (who also wore number 51 as a North Hollywood High basketball player). After receiving his honorable discharge in 1966, Ross returned to the Valley and began 37 years of service as a systems engineer at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, where he supported many groundbreaking deep space missions, including Galileo, Viking, the Mars rovers, and Cassini.

After losing his wife, Ross met the second love of his life, Ilse Lang, with whom he realized a lifelong dream by living on the beach in Oxnard, California. Together, they engaged in a myriad of volunteer activities, including serving as docents at the Olivas and Leonis Adobes, and the Museum of Ventura County. As a docent, Ross particularly enjoyed dressing as a 19th century vaquero and guiding tours for elementary school children. In addition to his volunteer activities, Ross loved being a grandfather to his grandson, Alex Ross Goodman (who carried on the tradition of wearing number 51 as a Loyola High School athlete). "Big Ross" and "Little Ross" shared a special bond and were inseparable whenever in proximity to each other.

Ross Goodman was truly a good man who would warmly greet any stranger who crossed his path, and with his disarming inquisitive loquaciousness, would soon have a friend. He will be missed by all who knew him. Ross is survived by his companion Ilse Lang, his son and daughter-n-law Marc P. and Christine C. Goodman and his grandson Alexander R. Goodman.

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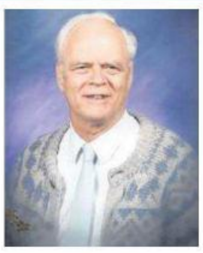
Los Angeles Times



GOUGH, Lawrence Woodward

1930 - 2022

Electrician, Teacher, Philosopher. Son of Vernon and Evelyn. Survived by Wife Donna, Children, Gary, Karen, and Roger, Grandchildren Adrienne, Cameron, Rebecca, and Nathan, Great Grandchildren Halynn, Henley, Hendrix, and Hazel.

O'Connor Mortuary (949) 581-4300
www.oconnormortuary.com

HOFFMAN, Cecil E.

The Rev. Dr. Cecil Hoffman died 12-27-2022 at his residence in Pasadena. He was 90. Hoffman was the Founder and Director of Community Counseling Service in the USC area (now known as Amanecer/CCS). Later he was in private practice as a Clinical Psychologist for thirty years, right up through the first two months of the COVID pandemic.

Dr. Hoffman received his B.A. from Occidental College and his M.Div. from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He served in pastoral ministry for seventeen years before receiving his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology at USC.

He married his wife, Pat, in 1954 while in his first year of seminary. They had three children, Bruce Hoffman, Mary Hoffman, and Ruth Hoffman Cooper (Jim). They were blessed with seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. Hoffman loved poetry, and for his 90th birthday he recorded several brief videos in which he shares stories of critical points in his life and poems that restored his soul. You may visit the website and hear these videos at https://www.poemsthatrestoredmysoul.com/about-cecil.

A Memorial Service was held in Pasadena on Jan. 7th. People wishing to make a donation in his honor are encouraged to go to Amanecer/CCS at https://amanecerla.org/

JEFFRIES, Thomas Little

February 19, 1937 - January 13, 2023

Thomas Little Jeffries ("Chico") was born on February 19, 1937 to Louise and Alerton Jeffries. His early years were spent in Newport Beach, California, with his brother Jerry and sister Judy.

He moved to Los Angeles, attended Harvard School, followed by Berkshire High School in Massachusetts. His college years were spent at Stanford University, where he joined the notorious "Zeta Psi" Fraternity.

In 1959 Tom married Carol Thomas (1937-2022), they had three children. Jennifer Louise (1960 – 1989), Juliane (1962) and William Thomas (1966). The family lived and enjoyed their home in Hancock Park, until their marriage ended in 1980.

Tom spent most of his career in the family business, Jeffries Banknote (founded in 1894). He became CEO of Pandick Technologies once the company was sold until he retired in 1980. Tom was the president of the Jonathan Club in 1983 where his grandfather (William Jeffries) was president and later founded the Jonathan Beach Club.

In 1983 Tom married Mary Ferguson Hall, they resided in Pacific Palisades together until his death. Mary and Tom biked all over the world for 17 years, traveled to Africa, India, China, Japan, and Europe. They hiked, skied and fly fished in Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho. Tom was an avid golfer,

hunter, member of "Rancheros" and rode with friends for years. He traveled the world, enjoying all his daredevil hobbies and even fished in Kamchatka Russia with his son Billy.

Tom is survived by his wife Mary of 40 years, children Julianne Halley and Bill Jeffries, stepchildren Key and Tucker Hall. His five grandchildren, Thomas, Tyler, Adrien Halley, John Beckett and Max Jeffries, step granddaughter, Lola Hall and sister Judy Mertz.

We all wonder what terrifying adventures "Chico" has scheduled for Heaven.

KING, Clyde

August 25, 1945 - January 14, 2023

Clyde King passed away January 14, 2023. He was a great husband, father, friend and a kind and generous boss.

Clyde was a native Californian, born in Los Angeles, CA in 1945. He spent most of his life on the West Coast. He served 4 years in the U.S. Navy after high school and went on to complete a Masters Degree in English at San Francisco State University. He loved long range fishing out of San Diego and caught many large tuna. Although he had Parkinson's for 30+ years, he never wanted to be known as "that Parkinson guy". He bravely underwent 3 experimental brain surgeries that greatly helped with symptoms.

Clyde founded King Instrument Company in 1983 and has been a successful owner and entrepreneur ever since.

He is preceded in death by his father Ozzie King, his mother Frances King, his sister Carol Russell and his brother Ron King. He is survived by his wife Carole, his son Henry and his sisters Jeanne Hendrickson and Janet King. Everyone who knew Clyde knew of his love of grammar. He would get cranky when someone would say "very unique" and would say, "you can't say very unique, it either is or it isn't". You'd be surprised how many times you will hear it. When you do, we hope you will remember Clyde.

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KOSLOW, Kenneth Leon

March 12, 1952 - January 3, 2023

Ken is survived by his love and life partner, Jeanne Meyers, her sons Riley (wife Emma) and Charles McMahon (wife Meredith), grandson Rowan McMahon, and Ken's brother Ron Koslow, sister Judy Koslow (husband Stefan Zweig), and nieces Lily and Jenna Zweig. He is pre-deceased by his brother Bobby and parents Samuella and David.

Ken's childhood home was in the hills of the Santa Monica Mountains, overlooking Los Angeles from Westwood to Santa Monica and Catalina Island. As Ken grew, he saw the region transform into a thriving city, and he knew he wanted to have a hand in shaping its future.

With a BA from Cal State Northridge, an MA from the Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning at UCLA, and a Master of Science in Real Estate Development from MIT, he made his mark on the city of Los Angeles through Koslow Associates, Urban Innovations Group, Sumitomo Corporation, Santa Monica Schools District, Westfield Corporation, and for nearly 20 years at KFA Architects.

KFA Architects grew and received awards for several projects that Ken worked on including the adaptive reuse of the historic Eastern Columbia Building, The Ace Hotel, as well as affordable housing, homeless shelters, and community centers. Ken was loved and respected by co-workers at KFA and was considered a great mentor.

Ken was an advisor and supporter of The MY HERO Project, providing his perspective and guidance to this nonprofit global community that promotes tolerance, understanding and equality in our world.

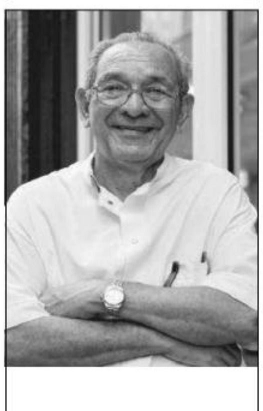
Along with his family and friends in Los Angeles, Ken will be missed by so many in his second home, Laguna Beach.

Ken was our guiding light, who taught us grace, love and patience with our imperfections. His loyalty was as steadfast as his kindness, and our hearts are enriched by his life and legacy.

A memorial service will be held on February 5, 2023 at 10:00 am in Los Angeles. Please RSVP to attend: RSVP@myheroproject.org

LAMPL, Ethel E

Dr. E. Esther Lampl passed away 1/19/23 at almost 101 years of age. Born in Vienna, Austria, she escaped the Holocaust when she was sent with the Youth Aliya to Palestine. During that period, she lost her parents and other close family members. Dr. Lampl was educated in Germany and England and developed an interest in Psychology, especially working with children. She was fortunate to have been accepted to study with Anna Freud while in England. When she arrived in the United States, she completed her PhD. in Clinical Psychology in Denver, Colorado. She then moved to Los Angeles and became Faculty at the Reiss-Davis Child Study Center while also maintaining a private practice in Beverly Hills where she worked with adults and children. In her later years, she was Staff Supervisor at the Wright Institute, Los Angeles. She remained clear minded clinically and politically until almost a few days before her passing. Dr. Lampl will be remembered for her sharp intelligence, kindness, friendship, and youthful laughter.



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Los Angeles Times

David John Forster

December 27, 1937 - November 28, 2022

David John Forster of San Clemente passed at age 84 after a short illness.

David was born in England to Albert Barden and Greta Joan "Joanna" Tilby. His two brothers, Brian and Michael Forster, preceded him in death.

David graduated with honors from London University in 1961 with a degree in mechanical engineering. He immigrated to the US in 1968 to work at Fleetwood Metals. In 1975, he started his own company, Continental Bronze, and later acquired the assets of Fleetwood Metals. The combined company was relaunched in 1988 as Fleetwood Continental and employs more than 60 people.

David's first wife, Janet, emigrated with him and continued to work with him even after their divorce. They had two children: Stephen G. Forster, who passed in 1990, and Katherine M. Forster. David is survived by his wife Joy, his daughter Katherine, grandson Stephen C. Forster, granddaughter Shana Barden Forster Velasquez, four great-grandchildren, and various nieces and nephews.

David married Joy in 2014, having reconnected after first meeting in the 1980s, and found great happiness in his final chapter.

David had a great sense of humor and won the affection and respect of many people over his long life. His legendary height was somehow surpassed by his generosity, which touched the lives of many. David is, and will be, greatly missed.

Service details are available at https://www.mccormickandson.com/obituary/david-forster. Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or City of Hope.

Patricia Connolly Ryan

March 1, 1925 - December 13, 2022

Patty, as she was known to family and friends, passed away peacefully in her home, surrounded by family. She was survived by her daughters Molly Ryan, Amy Ryan Floyd, son-in-law Randall Floyd, and grandson Ryan Floyd.

Patty, was born and raised in Omaha, NE. She was a graduate of Northwestern University.

After college, she held the position of copy editor for the Union Pacific Railroad company newspaper. During this time in her career, she transferred to San Francisco in the early 50s.

While living in San Francisco, Patty met her future husband, James (Jim) Ryan. They were introduced by mutual friends, and set up on a blind date for their first meeting. Jim flew from his native Los Angeles to meet Patty. It didn't take long for them to begin their lifelong love affair. Their faith filled marriage lasted over 54 wonderful years.

They settled in Pasadena in 1960, adopting Molly and Amy shortly thereafter. Patty loved being an exceptional stay at home mom and homemaker. She took pride in her cultivation of her prized rose garden, while also joining book clubs and bridge groups.

As her girls grew older, she donated her free time to charitable work, most notably as President of Los Angeles Children's Hospital, and The Christ Child Society. She also volunteered for the St. Vincent De Paul Society. She was a very involved member of the Pasadena Junior League, where she had an integral role of assisting the League with their work to help open and run the Pasadena Senior Center.

In her later years, she loved to travel internationally with her family, attend daily mass, and walk 2–3 miles a day in her neighborhood.

The funeral mass will be held on Friday, February 17th, 1:30 pm at St. Philip The Apostle Church, Pasadena, followed by the Celebration of Life at The Valley Hunt Club.

In lieu of flowers, we ask for donations in Patty's memory to either giving.huntingtonhospital.com, or give.pasadenahumane.org.

Harvey Byron

September 5, 1928 - January 23, 2023

✡ Harvey Edward Byron (known by everyone in his life as "OL' HARV") was a Papa to all. Everyone always said that when they made the mold for Harvey Byron, they threw it out. It's hard to put into words the man he was, and the impact he had on the lives of others. His soul emanated through the warmth of his smile, his hands, and the feeling you had in his embrace. His family knew no one would ever love them like he did. He set the bar for what it means to love unconditionally.

Harvey was born on September 5th, 1928 to Jewish parents, Florence and Louis Birnbaum, in Los Angeles, California. He had an older brother Marvin who he adored - so much so that they lived across the street from each other their entire adult lives, until Marvin's death in 2008.

After serving in the Army, Harvey met the love of his life, Eleana "Sugar" Aaron, on a blind date at 19 years old. He must've swept her off her feet because they spent almost 71 years of married bliss together, setting an unattainable example for everyone else. They shared everything together: an antique business, trips to Europe & Hawaii, scrabble games, Indian Wells tennis matches, old movies, showtunes, party hosting and sweet kisses in their backyard over a bowl of fresh fruit. They kept up their tan in Sherman Oaks and Hawaii, somehow making old age look good by being the tannest people in their 90s.

They had 2 children, 5 granddaughters, 2 honorary grandchildren, nieces & nephews…all excited to hear the many quips of their dad and Papa. Not a day went by where he didn't utter 'God love ya', 'Thanks a million', 'You're terrific.' Being the mensch that he was, he'd just as likely exclaim 'Oy Gotenyu', 'Stop Kvetching', and 'You're such a meshuggenah.' Always in jest, and with the cheekiest of smiles, Harvey gave the best compliments and the cleverest digs.

He attended UCLA and then graduated from Southwestern Law, where he earned his JD, becoming a successful criminal defense attorney and practicing well into his 80s. He was unsurprisingly everyone's favorite face to see in court. Beyond that, he was also the favorite at the bank and the doctor's office, and just about anywhere else he went. He truly had that effect on every person he met.

Anyone that knew him knew his real passion was singing, as he was a trained Opera singer. He put that to good use, regularly performing for the folks at home, but would never object to taking the stage at any party or senior living center like the Jewish Home for the Aged. He'd most often imitate his favorite singer Al Jolson, and if you hadn't heard Harvey sing 'Mammy' or 'April Showers', you ain't heard nothing yet! If you closed your eyes, it was like Jolson was there. The similarity in their voices was uncanny.

It'd be impossible to paint a full picture of Harvey, without mentioning his love of sports. It all began with basketball, but at 5'6", his basketball career as captain of the high school 'C' team was cut short, so he focused on ping pong, becoming the LA city champion.

Harvey spent an uncountable number of hours watching his favorite sports teams and players. He would never miss a Roger Federer tennis match, Lakers basketball game or Dodgers baseball game. And everyone knew where to find him each Saturday in the fall, wearing a Notre Dame hat, Notre Dame t-shirt and sitting in a Notre Dame director's chair rooting on the Fighting Irish. Having season tickets to the Rams, Dodgers, Lakers and Raiders, he shared this undying love of sports with his family.

Music, sports, laughter and card games were the soundtrack of time spent with Harvey. He was generous beyond belief. He'd say, 'Use it in the best of health,' and you'd know what that meant. All he wanted from life was a happy, loving family. And anyone can attest, he achieved that in spades. Harvey will be immeasurably missed, but a year ago, he lost his sweet Sugar, and has been waiting to serenade her ever since. Let's hope he is. Like Al Jolson & Harvey used to sing, 'We would walk a million miles for one more of your smiles.'

Harvey is survived by his two children Andy and Kimmy, son-in-law Rob, granddaughters Lindsey, Casey, Megan, Amy & Molly, honorary grandkids Jessie and Ryan and nieces and nephews.

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LYNCH, Terence David

Terence David Lynch, passed away at 81 on January 23, 2023, after a long illness. He was in Pasadena, surrounded by his loved ones when he quietly said goodbye.

Born March 7, 1941 in Detroit, MI, Terry was the eldest of five children born to Gerald and Mary Romaine Lynch. He counted many communities his home growing up including Detroit, Washington DC and then Los Angeles, mostly in Pacific Palisades, where he raised his family. He attended Loyola High School and studied economics at The University of Southern California where he was a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and the golf team before beginning his career in financial services.

After graduating USC in 1964, he joined White Weld & Co subsequently merging into Merrill Lynch beginning his career in investment management. He then joined Hambrecht & Quist in 1982 before moving to Trust Company of the West. In 1995, he left to help start WestCap Investors, an independent investment management firm based in Los Angeles. After several years, Terry joined Credit Suisse Securities which merged many of its top U.S. brokerage teams with Wells Fargo in 2015. Terry had a well-deserved reputation as one of the top investment advisors in Los Angeles.

It was in 1970 that Terry met the love of his life, Constance York, in New York City where they were married on March 4, 1971. Terry and Connie built a beautiful life together with their three daughters. His family was the world to him. Terry was passionate about many things including golf, travel, sailing, cycling and wine. He lived life to the fullest and had the most beautiful twinkle in his eye. He and his wife Connie traveled often over the years with family and friends. Terry loved his numerous golf trips to Scotland and Ireland with friends and his brother. He was also active in the Confrérie des Chevaliers, the fraternity of Knights of the Wine-Tasters and for many years the Society of the Friendly Sons of St Patrick.

Terry was very community minded having served on the board of trustees for St. Matthew's Parish School in Pacific Palisades, California, Don Bosco Technical Institute, an all-boys, private, Catholic high school in Rosemead, California, as well as Proctor Academy, a coed, independent preparatory boarding school in Andover, New Hampshire. In addition, he was very involved with The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens, a non-profit zoo and desert botanical garden located in Palm Desert.

Lynch is survived by his wife, Constance, and his three daughters, Erin Sweeney (Stender) of Pasadena, Courtney Koenig (Gary) of Boston and Catherine Adams (Casey) of Pasadena, and their nine grandchildren, Margaret, Caroline, Tucker, Andrew, Henry, Eloise, Charlotte, Daphne and Georgia. He is survived by three siblings, Rosemary Lynch Mitchell, Gerald John Lynch, Jr. and Julie Lynch Russell and is predeceased by Laura Lee Foley.

In lieu of flowers, donations in honor of Terence D. Lynch may be given to The Colleagues, whose mission is to support children and families of neglect, 3312 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405 or Loyola High School, 1901 Venice Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006 or www.loyolahs.edu/giving/gifts-in-memoriam.

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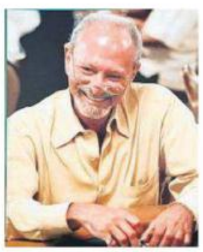


MARIN, Raymond Hy

August 23, 1938 - January 18, 2023

For those who were lucky to have known him, you already know that Ray was an exceptionally successful human being.

To share stories or comments with the family, email raymarin38-tribute@yahoo.com.

MCCARTHY, SSS, Sister Marha

December 28, 1940 - December 1, 2022

McCarthy, Sister Martha (Marti), SSS

Sister Marti died on December 1, 2022, after an almost five-year sojourn with Alzheimer's and Lewy Body Dementia.

Born in 1940 and raised in Southern California, she joined the Sisters of Social Service in 1959, and was reintegrated into the vowed Community in 1994 after a hiatus. Throughout her life Sr. Marti devoted more than 50 years to advocacy and direct service to underserved and marginalized communities.

Remembrance service will be held at the Sisters of Social Service, 4316 Lanai Road, Encino, and begin at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 30th, and internment will follow at Calvary Cemetery at 2:00.

To watch via Livestream on the day of the event, contact the Sisters of Social Service. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Sisters of Social Service.

Bastian & Perrott, Oswald Mortuary

MCLAUGHLIN, Gregory Young

June 20, 1958 - January 15, 2023

Greg earned a BA in Political Science from Santa Clara University. After graduation, he embarked on a career in land, sea and air freight forwarding, eventually co-founding Air & Ground World Transport. His business travel took him to all parts of the globe, where he developed lasting relationships. Most important to Greg were his spiritual activities. He was an elder in his congregation, where his leadership and generosity were admired by those who knew him. Greg is survived by his wife of 39 years, Stacy Grace Corder, brothers Patrick K. McLaughlin, Christopher L. McLaughlin (Julia), Scott M. McLaughlin (Elizabeth) and Tracy G. McLaughlin, along with numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by parents Harry Young and Judith King McLaughlin. Services will be held in Half Moon Bay, California on February 18th, 2023 at 3:00 PM. In-person memorial will be at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 611 Magnolia St., Half Moon Bay, CA 94019. The service will also be available on Zoom (contact family for log in details).

NICHOLS, Arthur

October 23, 1921 - November 17, 2022

Arthur NIchols passed away peacefully at, at the age of 101, with his wife Patricia at his side.

Born in Springfield, Mass., he went on to Dartmouth and then Stanford, where he graduated with a business degree.

Arthur was an avid tennis player, with 20 trophies to show for his efforts.

During WW2, Arthur was captain of 4 landing crafts in Papua New Guinea, and then became a submariner whose sub was the last to go in Tokyo Bay to make sure there was no surprise for the US.

Arthur retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant and went on to build two steel mills in Houston, Texas, which he ran. Also had another in Dallas, Texas, ran by a colleague.

Arthur met Patricia Hermes at the age of 61, and was in the process of selling his steel mills to Cargill Metals supply chain.

Arthur is survived by his daughter Susan from his previous marriage, his two nephews Carl and Maury and his wife of 40 years, Patricia.

PICCOLO, Betty Rae

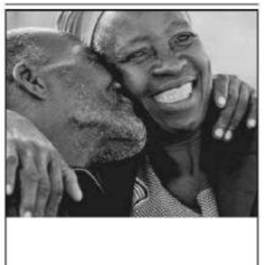
January 28, 1925 - November 26, 2022

Born in Falls City, Nebraska, Betty was an adventurous and studious child. When her older sister, Mary Jean, was old enough to start school, Betty demanded that she start school too, despite being two years her junior. This resulted in Betty graduating from high school early, at the age of 15. Betty outlived her husband, Frank, and two sisters, Mary Jean and Phyllis. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Matthew and Sandi Piccolo, her daughter and granddaughter, Leah and Nicole Lasseube, and numerous nieces and nephews. She was passionate about family, was an excellent writer, absolutely loved crossword puzzles, and never grew into an "old lady". Betty charmed everyone who met her. She passed away in Burbank, California a few months shy of her 98th birthday. She remained an avid reader of the Los Angeles Times until she was no longer able to see the fine print. We loved her so much.

POETZ, Helen Margaret

January 12, 1932 - December 14, 2022

Born in New York City to Helen & Fred Herman. A self-made woman who spent twenty-two years in banking and another thirty in the business world. She always put her family as her biggest success, with over fifty years with the love of her life. Bernie, her kids, Stacy & Brian, their wives, Meg & Sandra, and her grandchildren, Hannah & Evan, making her life complete... There will be no service at her request, a Celebration of Life will be forthcoming.



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RIEB, Donna K

December 22, 1942 - December 21, 2022

Donna passed December 21, 2022 due to complications from Primary Progressive Aphasia. She is survived by her husband Stan, son Richard, granddaughters Madelin and Emily and sisters Paula and Kim. She is predeceased by an older sister, Barbara. She is mourned by stepchildren Daniel and Launette and granddaughters Kathryn and Mirella, and her numerous friends.

Donna was born on December 22, 1942, to Edna Pauline and Lawrence Jones of North Platte, Nebraska. Her father was killed while piloting an airplane shortly before Donna was born. Her mother remarried and eventually moved to California, where Donna would attend high school at Dorsey High and then begin her 34-year career in aerospace at STL/TRW (now part of Northrop Grumman). For most of her career, she worked as a business manager on numerous military and civilian space programs until retiring in 1998. She will be interred next to her father in North Platte, Nebraska.

Donna and Stan traveled the world, embarking on several dozen overseas adventures. They were snow birds for many years, spending summers on Whidbey Island in Washington State and winters in Torrance, California. Donna was very active in her church and choir and participated in numerous charitable organizations. She will be remembered for her wonderful smile, caring heart and adventurous spirit.

ROSTAND, Margot Lynn

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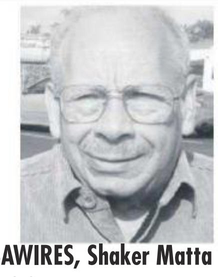

SAWIRES, Shaker Matta

Shaker Matta Sawires, age 89, of Cerritos, California, died at home on January 19, 2023, surrounded by his loving family. He was a well respected, sincerely generous man, cherished in his career and his personal life by those who knew him. A man of few words, the words he spoke were measured, insightful, straightforward, and witty.

Born in Luxor, Egypt in 1933, Shaker was the 8th of 11 siblings. In 1968, he and his wife immigrated to the United States and took up residence in Hollywood before settling in Cerritos.

Shaker excelled in every endeavor. His career in engineering spanned over 65 years and ranged from the gold mines of Aswan, Egypt to the metro rail lines of Los Angeles, California. He retired from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) in 1997, where he managed landmark construction projects, including construction of metro rail lines and the magnificent Union Station in Downtown LA. He continued to consult on large-scale construction projects for many years.

The great enjoyment of his later years was his annual trip to the Two Saints Monastery, located south of Luxor, Egypt. There he communed in fellowship with his beloved nephew and other dear friends and family.

He spent many joyful moments with his grandchildren in the final year of his life. He is survived by his wife, their six children, and seven grandchildren.

Visitation will be held on February 12, 2023 at Forest Lawn Mortuary from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with funeral services held there the following day at 2:00 PM.

SHIBATA, Stan Mitsuji

November 24, 1927 - December 1, 2022

(95) peacefully passed away on December 1, 2022 in Torrance, CA. He is survived by his daughters, Carol (Michael) Asahara, Cheryl (Joe) Bond, and Doreen (Brad) Gruenwald; 7 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; brother-in-law; sister-in-law and many nieces and nephews.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, February 18th 2023 at 12:00 noon at the VFW Hall 1822 W 162nd Street, Gardena.

Family requests that flowers be omitted and for casual aloha attire.

SPRINGER, Joyce Allen

February 8, 1936 - January 16, 2023

Joyce A. Springer, born Feb. 1936, died Jan. 2023 in Chatsworth, California.

Survived by son Matthew, daughter Jessica, and beloved nieces and nephews.

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TOMIKAWA, Kiyoshi George

January 16, 1929 - December 29, 2022

Kiyoshi passed away peacefully at the age of 93. A kind, caring and generous person who always graciously helped others. He was an avid fisherman who enjoyed the ocean and being active throughout his life. Kiyoshi is now reunited with his wife, Sumiko. He is survived by children Joy (Shawn), Glenn (Jeanie), Tina (Chris); grandchildren (Zane, Zoe, John (Mariko), Charlotte, Capri, Ciera, Czyla) and loving relatives. The family requests please no koden.

VAISMAN, Galina

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YAMAGUCHI, Tamiko Grace

Tamiko Grace Yamaguchi, age 86, passed away after a long illness on January 17, 2023 in Los Angeles, California.

Born in Santa Monica on January 24, 1936 to Misuko (née Enseki) and Tamaichi Uyemura. While interned in Manzanar and upon the death of her father in camp, she was adopted by Keikoh Kitahara. At the end of the war, the Kitaharas resettled in West Los Angeles, California. Tamiko was married for 63 years to her husband, Jack, who ran the beloved family general store, Yamaguchi's on Sawtelle Blvd. She worked at Hughes Aircraft in the secretarial pool and later applied those skills as a LAUSD Teacher's Aid. Tamiko will be remembered as the queen of crafting, a champion shopper and for her many homemade meals and birthday cakes. She mailed innumerable letters and holiday or birthday cards, hand written in her exquisite penmanship, to family and friends near and far. Tamiko was the embodiment of love, elegance and beauty and will be missed deeply by her many friends and family. She is survived by her husband Jack Eiji Yamaguchi; her children Kevin (Roblay), Douglas (Lina) of AZ, and Russell (Janet) Yamaguchi; her grandchildren Clayton, Lynley (Leland Tran) of Singapore, Justin of WA, Brandon of AZ, and Seiji and Kimiko Yamaguchi; her brother, Tamio (Helene) Kitahara and sister, Yuki (Cedric) Morita Scott; and her many nieces, nephews and relatives.

Due to COVID restrictions, a private memorial service will be held in her honor.

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Los Angeles Times

Nelson E. Meacham

November 10, 1946 - January 16, 2023

Nelson Meacham passed away on January 16th from recurrent atypical meningioma. A second-generation Californian, Nelson's grandparents, Emma and Raleigh Jennings, moved to Southern California from Redwood City, Minnesota, in 1910. His mother, Lois Jennings, married Norman Meacham, a talented professional musician who played multiple instruments, in 1936. Lois worked as a minister's secretary in the San Francisco Bay Area, where Nelson grew up. The Jennings grandparents started a favorite family tradition of summering at Lake Tahoe that Nelson loved.

Nelson was a curious child, who liked to figure out how things worked. He graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a Bachelor of Science degree in Engineering in 1970. He wanted to work for Disney from a young age and accomplished his goal in 1976 joining WED (Walter Elias Disney) Enterprises, which later became Walt Disney Imagineering. Nelson spent over two decades doing progressively more complex work on theme park projects and traveled to share his expertise at Disney parks in Florida, Tokyo, Paris and Hong Kong. He also led significant efforts in motion picture technology at the Walt Disney Studios Sound Department and Disney Feature Animation. Nelson was a talented engineer and pioneer of motion picture digital sound, as well as a kind, gracious and unassuming mentor and friend to many.

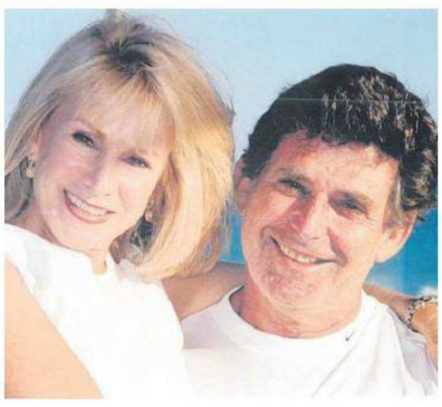
After a 32-year career, Nelson retired in 2008. He enjoyed meals with his close friends and partnered to build state-of-the-art movie and sound systems in their homes. Nelson also stayed in touch with his extended network of colleagues by actively participating in professional organizations, including: the Audio Engineering Society, Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (life fellow since 1977) and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (voting member, Sound Branch since 1982). He always had a seat at the LA Conservancy's "Last Remaining Seats" to delight in the films of the past. Nelson loved piano and organ music, attending concerts and supporting the preservation of historic instruments. He volunteered at Walt Disney's Carolwood Barn and the LA Live Steamers Railroad Museum in Griffith Park and enjoyed, not only train technology, but driving Chevy's newest hybrid and electric cars.

In 2013, doctors discovered that Nelson had a genetic propensity for non-malignant brain tumors. Approaching his medical condition like the engineer, Nelson was content as long as there was a plan of treatment. He courageously went on a difficult ten-year journey with multiple surgeries and other challenging treatments. He maintained his gentle disposition and optimism throughout, despite high levels of head pain, but recently succumbed to the illness.

Nelson is survived by his cousins—Wes Ashcraft, Jim Burns, Kathy Burns and Maureen Burns—and an extended loving family. The family is exceedingly grateful to Nelson's wonderful circle of caring friends and international network of colleagues, who supported him in so many ways, especially John Aalto, Marty Prager and Mercedes Pena, his caregiving angel.

A celebration of Nelson's life will be held at the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles on Sunday, February 26th, at 2 pm, located at 540 S. Commonwealth Avenue, LA, CA, 90020. All attendees are invited to an outdoor reception in the forecourt immediately afterward. Casual attire recommended. The church's Covid-19 protocol is in place with vaccinations being checked upon arrival, masks recommended but not required.

In lieu of flowers, we invite you to give to the "Meacham Memorial," which will fund programs for the great organs of First Church, by visiting www.FCCLA.org/Nelson-Meacham.



Joel Altshule

December 21, 1933 - January 23, 2023

Joel Altshule was born in Brooklyn on December 21, 1933 to Al and Claire Altshule. They moved to Los Angeles when he was 13 years old, right after Joel's Bar Mitzvah.

Joel worked hard from a young age, delivering newspapers and working for a local pharmacy. He attended UCLA and dropped out after his sophomore year to help his father with The Famous Department Store downtown. He then served a year in the army, and it was his best friend from his troop, Sid Kastner, who set him up on a blind date with Herma Goldstein, may her memory be a blessing. After their first date, Herma told her mother that she was going to marry Joel. Nine months later, on November 1, 1958, they were married at Brentwood Country Club. Herma used to say "If it weren't for me, Joel would still be on Hesby Street [in his parents' house]." They loved each other dearly and were married for 63 years.

While working at The Famous Department Store, Joel had the idea to use the sewing machines there to turn some extra nylon from tent repairs into duffel bags. Joel brought his samples to a trade show in Las Vegas in 1973, and when he received his first purchase order from Long Beach Surplus for $3,000, he thought he had won the lottery. This sense of something bigger led him to found Outdoor Products. Joel prided himself on making his products right here in Los Angeles and created a successful business. Like his father did for him, Joel brought his son Andrew into the company—Andrew has worked at Outdoor Products for over 30 years and is now CEO.

Joel was always humble, sharp, and quietly confident. He used to run 10Ks, was an excellent tennis player, and loved playing poker with his buddies. He was a respected businessman and a loving family man. He was predeceased by his sister Iris Shifren and will be missed by extended family including Carole and Richard Sukman, Claudie and Robert Goldstein, Nancy and Perry Altshule and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is survived by family members whom he loved with all his heart; his daughter Julie Schoenfeld (Jeff), and his sons Andrew Altshule (Joli) and Mark Altshule. He adored his grandchildren, Kate and Max Schoenfeld and Liv and Winston Altshule, with whom he was very close. He will be deeply missed.

May his memory forever be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles www.jewishla.org/give

Florence "Deda" Jacobsen

October 27, 1938 - January 6, 2023

Deda was born in Chicago the second of three children. Her older sister coined the name because she had trouble saying Florence and the name Deda stuck throughout her life. Her family moved about and settled in Santa Monica in the early 1950's where she attended St. Monica and Norte Dame High School. She graduated Northwestern University where she studied for a career in dental hygiene and met her future husband and prominent Beverly Hills dentist, Raymond Jacobsen (1930-2015).

After beginning her career in 1959 as a dental hygienist in Pacific Palisades, Deda married Ray in 1960 and had three children, Eric, James, and Nancy over the next 12 years. She was a devoted wife and mother who juggled the many aspects of parenting with joy and dedication. When she wasn't working, she filled her time tending to her children's activities, doing charitable endeavors, and developing a love of cooking and entertaining. She was continually active in many charities during her life including National Charity League Los Angeles Founder Chapter, The Ebell, Santa Monica Westside Charity League, ARCS Foundation, as well as being a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Deda always exhibited exceptional artistic talent and this ability she pursued with passion her entire life. She entered a drawing contest in her early teens and won first prize which was personally presented to her by Walt Disney. In the early 1970's, she signed up for classes at Brentwood Art Center. She had retired from dental hygiene and was looking to rekindle her love of art. This proved to be her calling.

Within a year, Deda was offered a teaching job at the art school which she happily accepted. She had a knack for teaching and quickly became a fixture at the Brentwood Art Center. Her tenure as a teacher lasted more than 45 years. During that time, she not only taught countless students painting, life drawing, perspective, color theory, and art history; she created several series of original artworks. Most of these series received gallery exhibitions, including a Barnsdall Art Gallery exhibit in 1992. Later, she was a founding member of TAG, The Artists Gallery. Additionally, she fed her love of travel by coordinating several art tours and painting excursions to France and Italy with students and colleagues. Well loved by her students and generous with her time, she always helped them to embrace their own individual styles and achieve their desired results. For more information on Deda's art career please visit www.dedajacobsen.com.

Deda is survived by her three children and a brother, as well as several nieces and nephews. Her passing has dimmed all our lives by the loss of her vibrant smile, sparkling sense of humor, and vivid inner light. An internment ceremony is scheduled for 2pm January 30, 2023, at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica for family, friends, students, and colleagues who may wish to attend.

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
latimes.com/placeobituary

THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Damp and chilly: An onshore flow ahead of an upper-level low dropping southward through the northern part of the state will bring plenty of clouds and occasional rain and drizzle today. Additional wet weather will follow at times tonight and Monday as the low drops southward off the coast. Snow levels will fall as low as 3,000 feet, with slippery conditions expected in the passes.

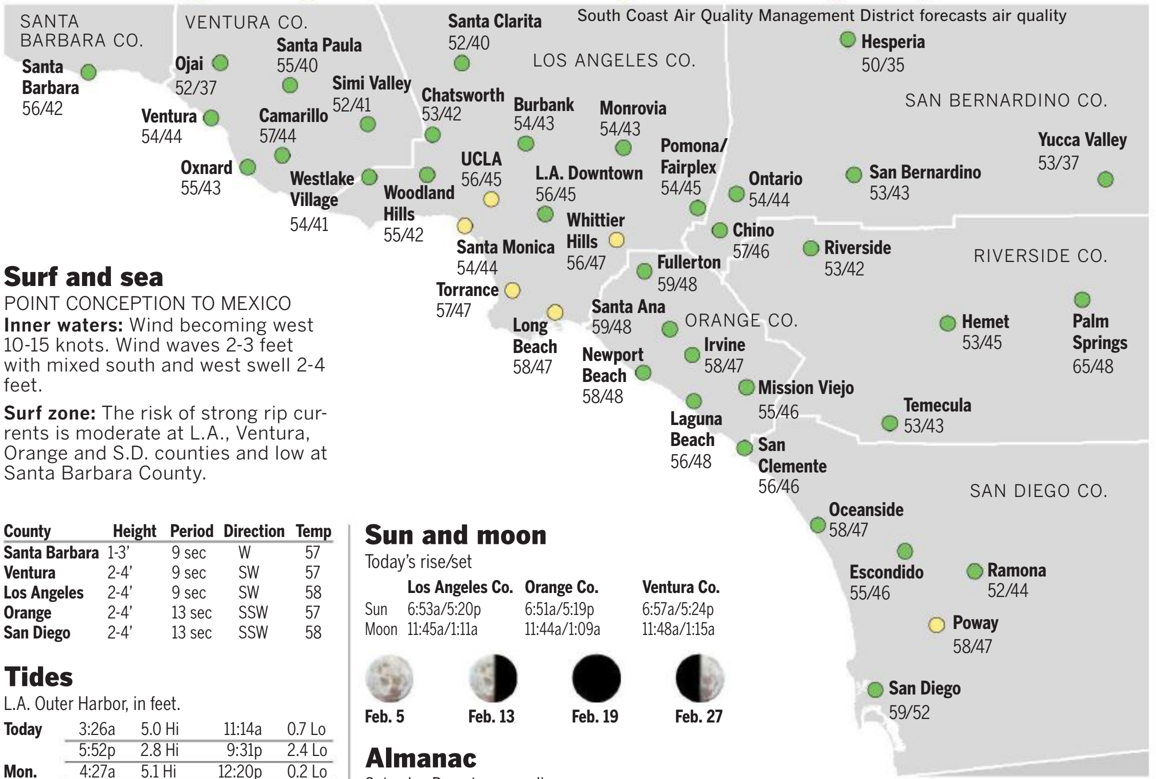
5-day forecasts

High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	Rain and drizzle	56|45	Rain and drizzle	53|41	Rain and drizzle	54|44	Rain/snow shower	37|23	Some sun	65|48
Monday	Showers	55/42	Showers	54/43	Showers	56/43	Snow, 1-3"	30/16	Showery	58/45
Tuesday	Sunny; cool	60/40	Sunny; cool	60/41	Sunny; cool	64/37	Very cold	28/14	Sunny	61/45
Wednesday	Mostly sunny	64/46	Mostly sunny	62/41	Mostly sunny	61/40	Not as cold	37/18	Sunny	70/46
Thursday	Mostly cloudy	66/46	Clouding up	62/43	Mostly cloudy	62/42	Some sun	45/23	Partly sunny	71/50

Air quality

● Good ● Moderate Unhealthful for: ● Sensitive people ● All ○ Not Available



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind becoming west 10-15 knots. Wind waves 2-3 feet with mixed south and west swell 2-4 feet.

Surf zone: The risk of strong rip currents is moderate at L.A., Ventura, Orange and S.D. counties and low at Santa Barbara County.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	9 sec	W	57
Ventura	2-4'	9 sec	SW	57
Los Angeles	2-4'	9 sec	SW	58
Orange	2-4'	13 sec	SSW	57
San Diego	2-4'	13 sec	SSW	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	3:26a	5.0 Hi	11:14a	0.7 Lo
	5:52p	2.8 Hi	9:31p	2.4 Lo
Mon.	4:27a	5.1 Hi	12:20p	0.2 Lo
	7:19p	3.1 Hi	10:52p	2.7 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 45

Phoenix, 45

Los Angeles, 60

San Francisco, 60

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:53a/5:20p	6:51a/5:19p	6:57a/5:24p
Moon	11:45a/1:11a	11:44a/1:09a	11:48a/1:15a

Almanac

Saturday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	65/48	66/46	60/44
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	73/46	74/47	72/51
Record high/date	90/1971	89/2018	87/2018
Record low/date	35/1957	38/1999	32/1957

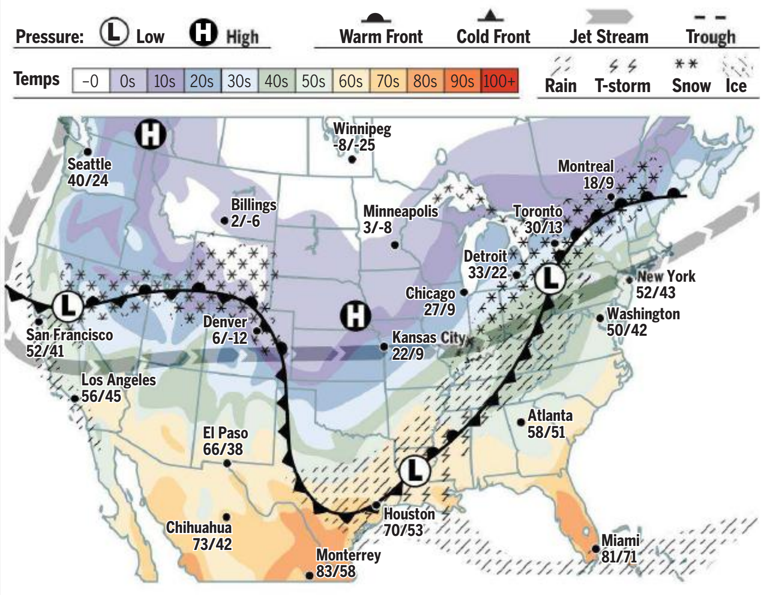
Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.01	10.94	13.33
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.36	5.47	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	6.84	5.66	7.68
Humidity (high/low)	73/46	76/48	85/54

California cities

	Saturday			Today		Monday	
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Anaheim	70	44	--	55	45	58	42
Avalon/Catalina	57	46	--	50	45	50	44
Bakersfield	59	36	--	53	41	52	35
Barstow	62	36	--	60	38	51	34
Big Bear Lake	49	24	--	36	23	30	16
Bishop	53	25	--	49	28	38	21
Burbank	62	40	--	55	42	55	40
Camarillo	61	36	--	57	42	59	41
Chatsworth	64	39	--	52	41	53	41
Chino	63	35	--	56	46	57	44
Compton	61	45	--	55	44	58	40
Dana Point	59	45	--	55	48	56	45
Death Valley	73	40	--	67	50	61	45
Del Mar	59	48	--	59	49	55	46
Escondido	65	40	--	54	47	54	40
Eureka	51	42	--	52	25	50	30
Fallbrook	62	44	--	54	43	54	39
Fresno	61	37	--	50	36	53	33
Fullerton	66	46	--	57	47	58	42
Hemet	59	34	--	51	43	54	34
Hesperia	59	32	--	48	34	44	25
Huntington Beach	63	42	--	56	48	56	46
Idyllwild	53	29	--	42	33	39	29
Irvine	64	43	--	57	46	58	46
L.A. D'ntown/USC	65	48	--	56	44	55	42
L.A. Int'l. Airport	63	47	--	56	45	57	44
Laguna Beach	63	41	--	55	49	56	48
Lancaster	63	34	--	51	30	49	27
Long Beach	63	47	--	57	46	58	42
Mammoth Lakes	28	3	--	31	15	24	12
Mission Viejo	xx	xx	xx	55	46	54	44
Monrovia	63	39	--	53	41	56	42
Monterey	55	39	--	52	37	53	36
Mt. Wilson	49	38	--	38	25	31	27
Needles	64	38	--	65	44	60	41
Newport Beach	60	51	--	57	47	56	48
Northridge	64	37	--	53	41	55	43
Oakland	55	41	--	54	39	54	35
Oceanside	61	36	--	57	48	58	41
Ojai	63	31	--	54	35	53	35
Ontario	62	37	--	53	44	55	42
Palm Springs	68	44	--	64	46	58	45
Pasadena	65	43	--	53	42	54	40
Paso Robles	60	39	--	51	37	53	28
Redding	65	39	--	55	40	55	35
Riverside	60	31	--	52	43	54	37
Sacramento	59	34	--	48	34	53	31
San Bernardino	63	34	--	51	42	53	40
San Diego	61	48	--	58	50	56	48
San Francisco	57	43	--	53	42	56	39
San Gabriel	xx	xx	--	53	42	56	40
San Jose	62	44	--	54	36	52	31
San Luis Obispo	63	40	--	53	40	57	35
Santa Ana	63	47	--	59	49	59	46
Santa Barbara	61	40	--	58	42	56	39
Santa Clarita	62	38	--	51	39	54	40
Santa Monica Pier	63	46	--	52	42	56	43
Santa Paula	63	32	--	54	39	57	37
Santa Rosa	61	31	.01	56	34	57	28
Simi Valley	65	41	--	51	39	54	40
Tahoe Valley	45	4	Tr	31	18	23	10
Temecula	62	35	--	51	42	53	36
Thousand Oaks	62	44	--	54	39	56	41
Torrance	63	45	--	55	46	57	41
UCLA	xx	xx	--	56	44	55	44
Van Nuys	65	40	--	56	41	57	44
Ventura	60	44	--	51	43	55	38
Whittier Hills	66	47	--	53	44	57	37
Woodland Hills	64	34	--	55	41	55	44
Wrightwood	47	32	--	36	28	34	23
Yorba Linda	65	41	--	53	48	55	42
Yosemite Valley	51	30	--	31	17	31	24

Today in North America

Cold with storms: A storm and its front will bring snow to the eastern Great Lakes area, with rain and thunderstorms stretching southward. Flooding will be possible in the lower Mississippi Valley. Frigid air will cover the Plains, and snow will fall from the Sierra to the central Rockies.



U.S. cities

SATURDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 82 in Marathon, Fla.

Low –26 in Rolla, N.D.

	Saturday			Today		
City	Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	45	30	Tr	43	31	Cy
Albuquerque	53	22	--	51	29	Su
Anchorage	30	27	--	36	33	Cy
Aspen	26	16	.12	30	18	Sf
Atlanta	58	33	--	58	51	R
Austin	60	48	.14	67	40	Sh
Baltimore	57	27	--	51	40	Sh
Boise	39	30	.02	31	7	Cy
Boston	50	30	--	52	40	Cy
Buffalo	35	27	.01	40	24	Sn
Burlington, Vt.	41	31	Tr	33	16	Sn
Charleston, S.C.	60	30	--	69	56	Cy
Charlotte	59	27	--	58	48	Cy
Chicago	30	19	.11	27	9	Sn
Cincinnati	55	32	--	47	32	Sh
Cleveland	40	29	.01	44	29	Sn
Columbia, S.C.	59	27	--	64	51	R
Columbus	50	34	Tr	46	31	Sh
Dallas/Ft.Worth	70	45	Tr	52	27	Pc
Denver	24	14	--	6	-12	Cy
Detroit	30	23	.01	33	22	Sn
El Paso	66	28	--	66	38	Su
Eugene	50	37	Tr	39	21	Su
Fort Myers	80	58	Tr	86	67	Pc
Hartford	51	29	--	51	38	Pc
Honolulu	79	70	Tr	77	66	R
Houston	70	53	.17	70	53	Ts
Indianapolis	53	29	--	44	26	Sh
Jacksonville, Fla.	61	30	--	74	62	Cy
Kansas City	55	35	--	22	9	Cy
Knoxville	56	34	--	45	43	R
Las Vegas	56	36	--	59	42	Pc
Louisville	60	41	--	50	36	R
Medford	51	38	--	44	18	Su
Memphis	59	37	.03	59	36	R
Miami	79	64	--	81	71	Pc
Milwaukee	26	19	.23	24	7	Sf
Minneapolis	7	2	--	3	-8	Cy
Nashville	61	36	.01	52	43	R
New Orleans	70	45	--	72	62	Ts
New York	52	36	--	52	43	Pc
Norfolk	59	30	--	60	45	Pc
Oklahoma City	62	40	--	30	18	Pc
Omaha	23	20	.03	7	-2	Cy
Orlando	73	46	--	81	63	Pc
Philadelphia	53	32	--	52	41	Pc
Phoenix	65	39	--	69	47	Su
Pittsburgh	49	31	Tr	44	35	Sh
Portland, Ore.	47	44	.09	41	24	Su
Providence	51	24	--	53	38	Pc
Raleigh/Durham	62	30	--	56	46	Pc
Reno	48	23	--	35	14	Sn
Richmond	61	29	--	55	43	Cy
St. Louis	59	33	--	35	18	I
Salt Lake City	43	35	Tr	36	14	Sn
Seattle	44	40	.05	40	24	Su
Tampa	68	49	.02	82	66	Pc
Tucson	68	33	--	69	40	Su
Tulsa	61	43	--	30	20	Cy
Washington, D.C.	58	34	--	50	42	Sh
Wichita	54	34	--	24	10	Cy

World

City	Saturday Hi	Saturday Lo	Saturday Prcp.	Today Hi	Today Lo	Today Sky
Acapulco	87	69	--	87	70	Su
Amsterdam	43	35	.05	45	43	Cy
Athens	57	46	.12	55	42	Sh
Bangkok	82	70	--	84	65	Pc
Barcelona	48	36	--	52	36	Su
Berlin	35	28	--	38	35	Cy
Cabo San Lucas	75	54	--	76	56	Su
Cairo	76	63	--	70	53	Pc
Dubai	70	57	--	75	59	Su
Dublin	44	37	.27	51	38	Cy
Havana	86	68	.01	86	61	Pc
Ho Chi Minh City	90	73	--	88	70	Sh
Hong Kong	61	47	--	60	51	Hz
Istanbul	49	46	.18	43	37	Cy
Jerusalem	66	53	--	62	47	Cy
Johannesburg	87	59	--	84	59	Ts
Kuala Lumpur	86	75	.45	87	73	Hz
Lima	77	69	--	78	69	Cy
London	43	36	--	48	42	Cy
Madrid	50	27	--	47	24	Su
Mecca	93	68	--	89	68	Su
Mexico City	76	42	--	76	47	Su
Montreal	36	27	.17	18	9	Sn
Moscow	26	24	.13	31	25	Cy
Mumbai	91	74	--	85	68	Hz
New Delhi	70	40	--	64	54	Sh
Paris	39	35	--	40	37	Cy
Prague	30	27	.07	32	26	Cy
Rome	47	41	.72	54	31	Su
Seoul	40	10	--	38	16	Sf
Singapore	80	77	1.40	82	75	R
Taipei City	54	46	--	60	52	Cy
Tokyo	59	33	--	45	36	Su
Vancouver	45	36	Tr	34	22	Su
Vienna	32	28	.31	32	26	Cy

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Saturday's readings as of 5 p.m.

Forecasts by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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Comparisons miss point about policing, racism

[**Smith,** from B1]

Hint: It's not hiring more Black cops.

"The only difference between 30-plus years with my father and now is we now have hashtags, clear video and phones," she told me.

King was just 7 years old when her father was pulled over and beaten by four white Los Angeles police officers a few feet from his car in the San Fernando Valley.

As they took turns hitting him with their batons, illuminated by the lights of a police car, more than a dozen other officers from the LAPD and other agencies gathered around in a loose circle to watch. Later, not one officer at the scene made a formal report of the misconduct. They even joked about it.

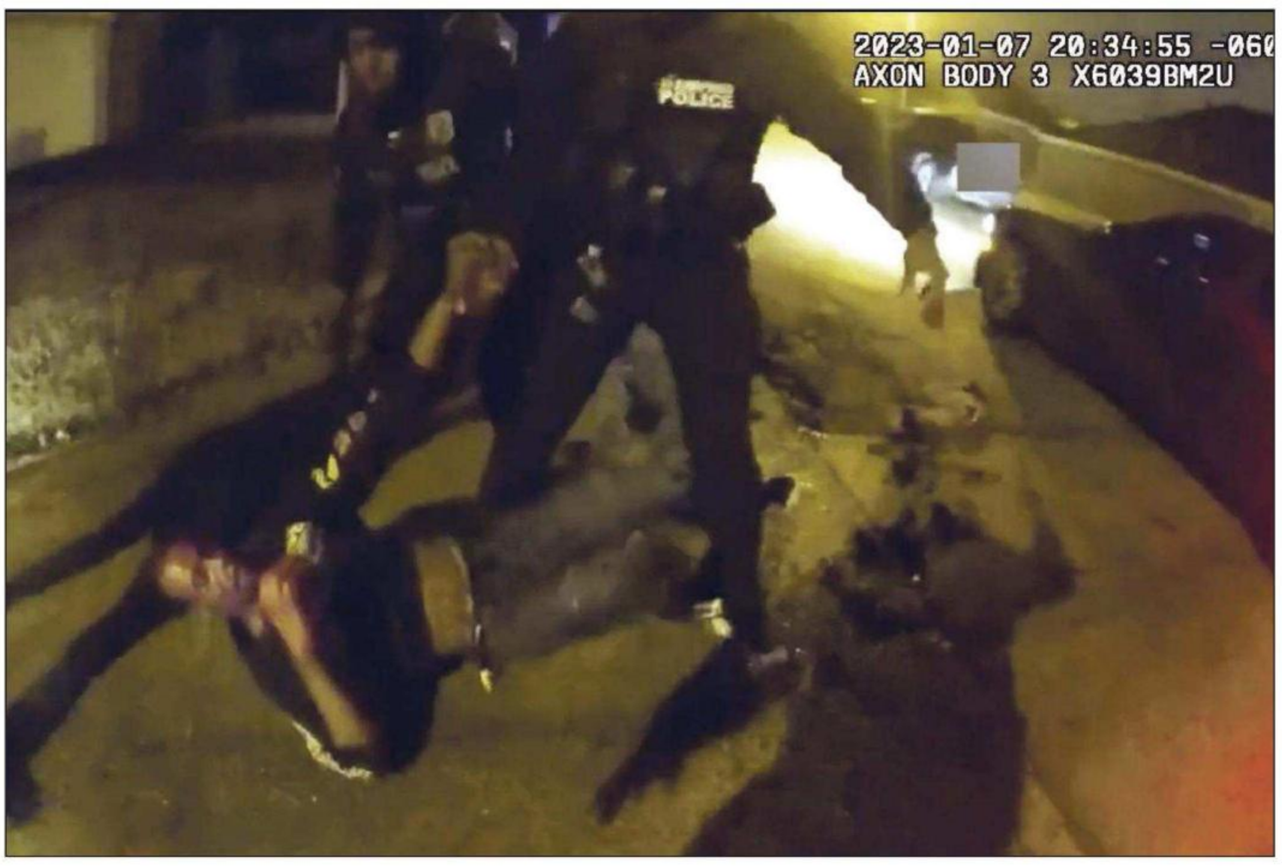
Back then, there were no body-worn cameras or smartphones with high-definition cameras and instantaneous access to social media. A stranger with an old-school camcorder brought the gruesome scene from the darkness into the light.

It was so cruel and so callous, much of non-Black America looked at the footage and saw racism, pure and simple, nothing more, nothing less. And so many of those people thought — and many mayors and city councils agreed — that if we just diversified the ranks of police departments, it would solve the problem of police brutality in communities of color.

But it was never that pure or that simple.

As numerous researchers told my Times colleague Jaweed Kaleem, diversity isn't a panacea.

"Studies indicate that Black officers are just as brutal and at times even more brutal against Black bodies as their white counterparts," said Duane Loynes Sr., an assistant professor at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tenn., who studies the relationship between Black communities and police. "If a system is problematic, it doesn't matter who you plug into it. You will get the same result."



Associated Press

VIDEO SHOWS Tyre Nichols on the ground after officers beat him. Police brutality, at its core, is about systemic racism, not the racism of individual officers. So, no, diversifying police departments will not help.

Of course, none of this is exactly news to Black people, much less to Lora King.

"I know my dad's situation," she said of King, who died in 2012. "And [some of] the bystanders were African American cops who did nothing."

This is why, when activists with Black Lives Matter take to the streets to demand justice for an act of police brutality, the race of the officers involved is almost never mentioned — it's so irrelevant.

And yet, almost 32 years after the Rodney King beating, many still seem confused and shocked that Nichols was beaten by five Black cops in a city where more than half the police force is Black, and most residents are too.

Tadarrius Bean, Demetrius Haley, Emmitt Martin III, Desmond Mills Jr. and Justin Smith were all members of the Memphis Police Department's aggressive violent-crime unit, "SCORPION." The unit has since been disbanded. And the officers have been fired, arrested, charged and released on bail.

Their deadly encounter with Nichols started as so many do — with a traffic stop.

"You gonna get your ass blown the f— out," one officer yells at Nichols, who is seated in his car. Then, with guns pointed at him, an officer drags him from the driver's seat.

"I didn't do anything," Nichols says. "All right, I'm on the ground."

A few minutes later, an officer tells Nichols: "Watch out, I'm gonna baton the f— out of you!" Then another officer punches him in the face. Others hold him up as more blows are delivered.

"All right, all right," Nichols says, moaning and trying desperately to comply with their orders.

Throughout the beating, he screams for his mother, who was at home only a short distance away. Near the end of the recording, the officers can be heard laughing and joking as Nichols, propped up against a car, slumps over.

"Hey, sit up, bro," one officer tells Nichols, who, by this point, was lying on the ground in pain. "Sit up, man."

I wouldn't advise anyone to watch the video, even the snippets, but if you do, you'll see what looks more like someone getting jumped in an alley outside of a dive bar than police officers trying to arrest someone.

That all five were comfortable carrying out such senseless savagery while not only wearing body cameras but doing it under a pole-mounted police surveillance camera is indicative of a toxic culture of policing. A "groupthink," as Chief Davis called it, that is bigger than "bad apples."

Sure, it's extremely disappointing that not one of them looked at Nichols and saw a reflection of their own Blackness — and a recognition of the brutality that so many Black people have endured over the decades by people with a badge and a gun.

"They have brought shame to their own families," Nichols' mother, RowVaughn Wells, told CNN on Friday. "They brought shame to the Black community."

They also betrayed the civil rights activists who've been fighting to protect Black lives for more decades than I've been alive.

The Rev. Al Sharpton, who also has drawn comparisons between Nichols and King, acknowledged "that these officers are Black makes it more egregious to those of us in the civil rights movement." But "these officers should not be allowed to hide their deeds behind their Blackness. We are against all police brutality — not just white police brutality."

And police brutality, at its core, is about systemic racism, not the racism of individual officers. It's about enforcing a system of power that is built on white supremacy and carried out by overpolicing low-income communities of color, like an occupying force.

Anyone, even Black cops, can be a tool of that system because anyone can be a tool of white supremacy.

So, no, diversifying police departments won't help.

What will help are new laws that fundamentally change how police departments operate, whether it's requiring more active monitoring of officers' mental health or somehow changing their role in carrying out traffic stops. We have to be more intentional about explicitly forbidding and punishing behavior that needs to stop.

"Whatever we're doing, it's not working," Lora King told me. "It's not working because we're still in the same place going into infinity sign. So the whole everything needs to be reconstructed."

Nichols, who died days after his beating, swollen and bloodied on a ventilator in a Memphis hospital, had lived in Sacramento until just a few years ago. He leaves behind a 4-year-old son.

Like the daughter of Rodney King, his son will one day have to make sense of a system of policing and of power that a majority of Americans refuse to meaningfully change because they benefit from it — even as it continues to destroy Black lives, one way or another.

"It's sad we even have to compare this. It's sad that it's even happening," King said, trying to come up with the words. "It doesn't make sense. I can never make sense of it. It's sickening."

Los Angeles Times D

SPORTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Sports key tool in soft power agenda

Little-known State Department initiative uses balls instead of bombs to foster unity.

By Kevin Baxter

When U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken visited the Middle East last fall, he didn't go there just to talk about oil and natural gas, terrorism or the war in Ukraine.

He also went there to talk about soccer.

Before the U.S. national team's World Cup opener in Qatar, Blinken joined members of the American squad and dozens of young Qatari boys and girls for a soccer clinic, where he talked about one of the most useful implements in his diplomatic tool box: sports.

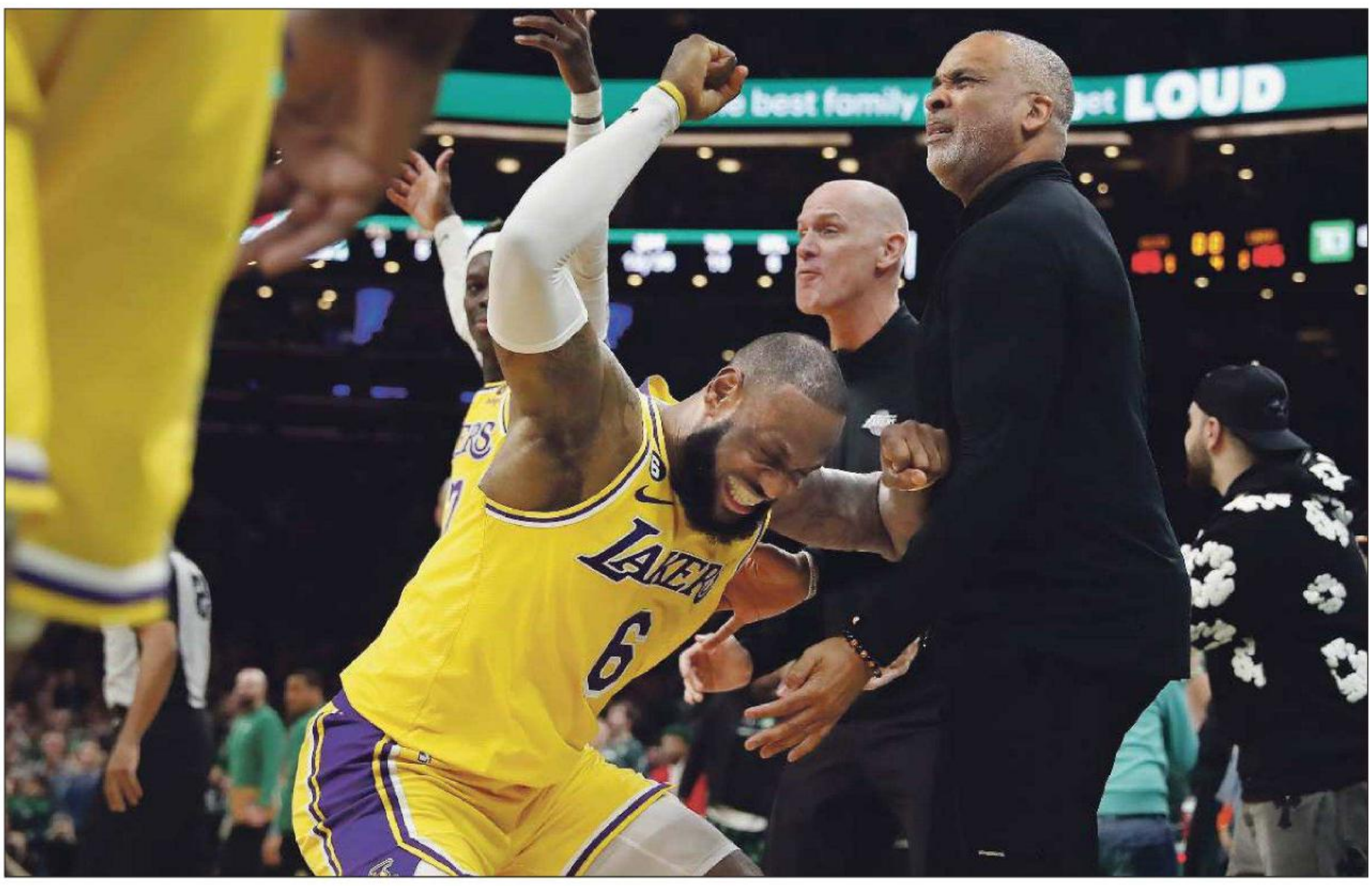
"We use sports as a way of connecting people, connecting people to our country. Whenever I go around the world — whatever, again, our differences may be — sports brings us together, unites us, connects us," he said.

Toward that end the State Department's sports diplomacy program has sent surfers to Papau New Guinea, taken ambassadors such as Shaquille O'Neal to Cuba and organized sports camps in which Israelis and Palestinians both have taken part. It also brought hundreds of leaders from grassroots sports organizations from around the world to the U.S. as part of a mentoring program designed to encourage and empower leaders while expanding athletic opportunities for young athletes back home.

And it does all that on an annual budget of about $6 million — so small that even in the hyperpartisan political climate in Washington, sports diplomacy has remained beneath the fray, finding fans on the blue and red teams.

[See **Diplomacy,** D7]

BOSTON 125, LAKERS 121 (OT)



Photographs by Michael Dwyer Associated Press

LeBRON JAMES and Lakers teammates and coaches react after James drove to the basket at the end of the fourth quarter and didn't get a foul call. "As much as you try not to put it on officiating, it's becoming increasingly difficult," coach Darvin Ham said.

No harm, no foul? No way

James and Lakers in disbelief over no-call at end of battle in Boston

By Dan Woike

BOSTON — There are excuses. There are facts.

Darvin Ham isn't one for excuses, and pointing to the referees, to Ham, is an excuse.

But after LeBron James didn't get sent to the free-throw line at the end of regulation Saturday night in Boston and the Lakers couldn't get right in overtime, Ham leaned on his facts.

After losing to Boston 125-121, the Lakers' coach and their star players all felt the same. They did enough to win. They should've won. And things outside of their control were the main reason they didn't.

"As much as you try not to put it on the officiating, it's becoming increasingly difficult," Ham said. "There's a bunch of stuff we could have did better in this game, but for the most part, we competed our behinds off, played the right way, played together, stayed aggressive, playing down, playing in the paint. And it's unfortunate that the game ends off a play like that."

"We got cheated," forward Anthony Davis said.

Sources not authorized to speak publicly said the Lakers were quickly informed by NBA officiating staff after the game that a foul should've been called on the play. Later, crew chief Eric Lewis said the officials should've whistled a foul.

"There was contact," he told a pool reporter. "At the time, during the game, we did not see a foul. The crew missed the play."

Asked about the play, Boston's Jayson Tatum, who hit James on the arm, smiled.

"The last two minutes and overtime was a blur. I don't really know what happened," he said. "Think I have to watch the game, watch the film. Everything happened so fast. Gotta move on and we got the win. That's all I got to say about that."

It's the second time a potential James game-winner went without a call this month; the Lakers learned James should've shot free throws after a drive in

[See **Lakers,** D7]

JAYLEN BROWN of the Celtics loses control of the ball in front of Russell Westbrook in the first half.

CLIPPERS 120, ATLANTA 113

Leonard goes downtown

His 32 points include a season-high five three-point baskets as Clippers win their fifth in a row. **D6**

NFL PLAYOFFS :: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

AFC :: CINCINNATI AT KANSAS CITY

AT ARROWHEAD STADIUM | TODAY, 3:30 P.M. PST | **TV:** CHANNEL 2

Slingers go face-to-face in another star showcase

Burrow and Mahomes duel in spotlight again in title-game rematch of Bengals and Chiefs.

By Gary Klein

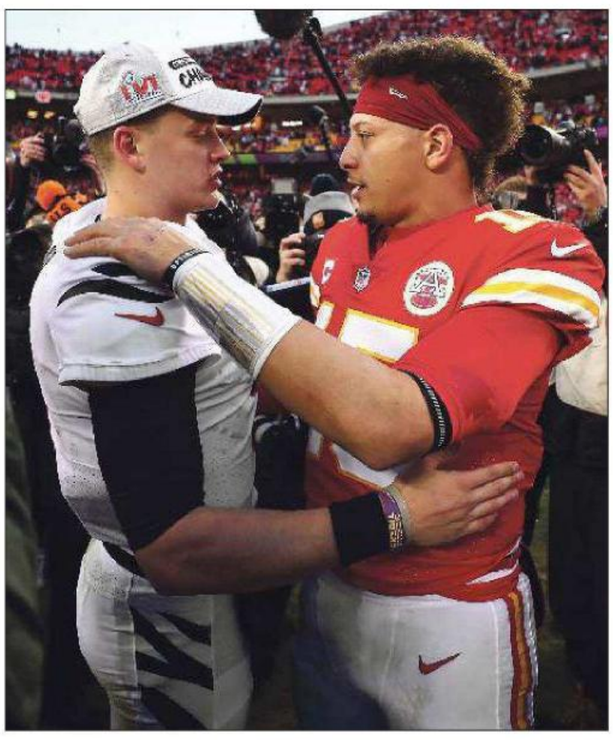
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — They are, arguably, the two best quarterbacks in the NFL, Super Bowl-tested and in their mid-20s.

Patrick Mahomes has led the Kansas City Chiefs to two Super Bowls, one championship and five consecutive AFC championship games.

Joe Burrow led the Cincinnati Bengals to the Super Bowl last season and has his team primed for a possible return.

So Mahomes and Burrow will be the key players on Sunday when the Chiefs play host to the Bengals in the AFC championship

[See **AFC,** D4]



Kevin Sabitus Getty Images

JOE BURROW, left, and Cincinnati edged Patrick Mahomes and Kansas City in overtime last season.

NFC :: SAN FRANCISCO AT PHILADELPHIA

AT LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD | TODAY, NOON, PST| **TV:** CHANNEL 11

These lines are prepared to throw weight around

Zach Bolinger Associated Press

THE EAGLES' Jason Kelce (62) centers an offensive line that has a collective weight of 1,620 pounds.

The Eagles' offensive unit will be challenged by the 49ers' talented defensive front.

SAM FARMER
ON THE NFL

PHILADELPHIA — With four NFL teams vying Sunday for two spots in the Super Bowl, most everyone is focused on the quartet of young quarterbacks. That's fair. They touch the football on just about every play.

The Philadelphia Eagles have a ton of other critical assets.

Well, make that 1,620 pounds of them.

That's the collective listed weight of the Eagles offensive line, the best in football and an overlooked factor in the team's success. The biggest challenge those five men face figures to

[See **NFC,** D4]

Sabalenka breaks through

In winning Australian Open, 24-year-old overcomes some nerves and losing three match points. **D2**

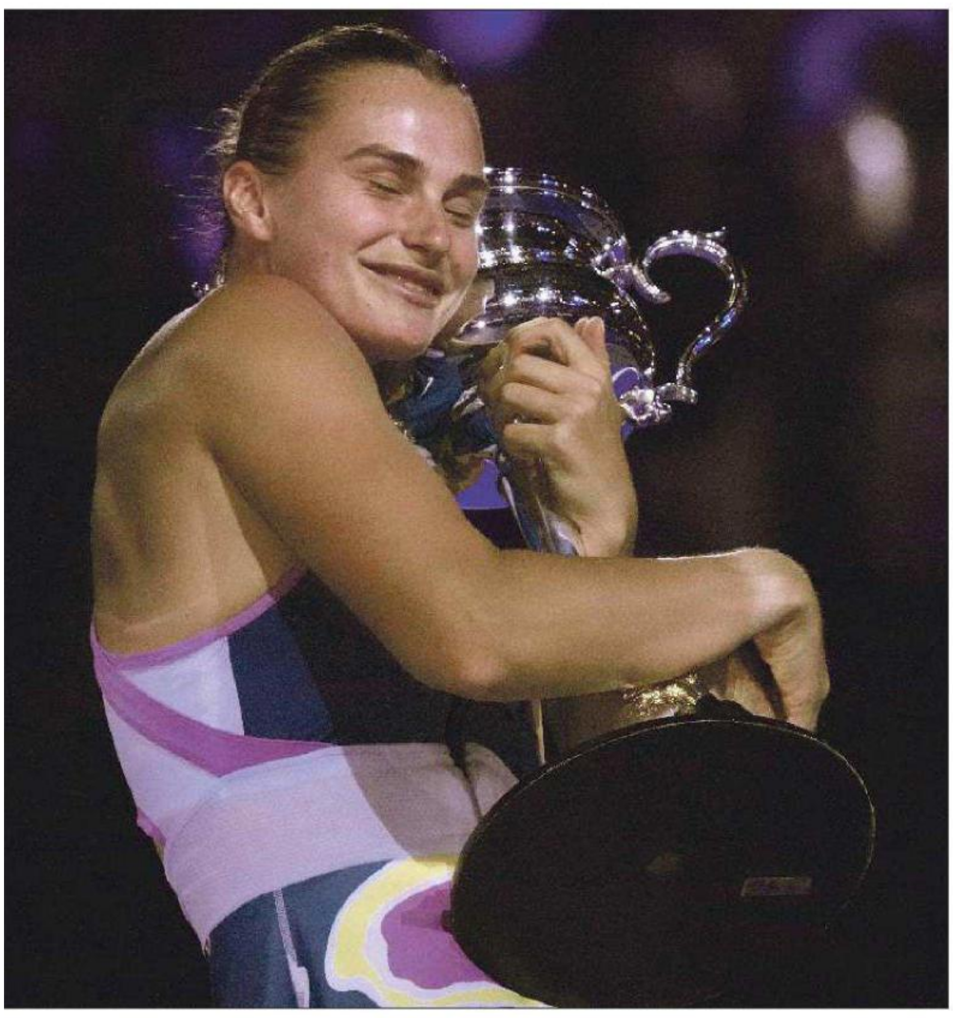
Homa rallies to win Farmers Open

Burbank native erases five-shot deficit and wins by two strokes to capture his sixth PGA Tour title. **D3**

U.S. battles Colombia to scoreless tie

Men's national team fails to score in camp finale but interim coach Hudson is pleased with youngsters. **D5**

Sabalenka overcomes nerves to win title



Dita Alangkara Associated Press

ARYNA SABALENKA clutches her Australian Open trophy tight after beating Elena Rybakina for first major title. "I was a little bit nervous," Sabalenka said.

She wins Australian Open despite losing opening set and three match points.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, Australia — One point away from her first Grand Slam title, Aryna Sabalenka faulted. And then she faulted again. She grimaced. She yelled and turned her back to the court. She wiggled her shoulders and exhaled.

Clearly, this business of winning the Australian Open was not bound to happen without a bit of a struggle Saturday night. Sabalenka knew deep inside that would be the case. She also knew that all of the effort she put in, to overcome self-doubt and those dreaded double-faults, had to pay off eventually. Just had to.

And so, as she wasted a second match point by flubbing a forehand, and a third by again missing another, Sabalenka did her best to stay calm, something she used to find quite difficult. She hung in there until a fourth chance to close out Elena Rybakina presented itself — and this time, Sabalenka saw a forehand from her similarly powerful foe sail long. That was that. The championship belonged to Sabalenka via a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 comeback victory over Wimbledon winner Rybakina.

"The last game, yeah, of course, I was a little bit nervous. I [kept] telling myself, like, 'Nobody tells you that it's going to be easy.' You just have to work for it, work for it, till the last point," said Sabalenka, a 24-year-old from Belarus who is 11-0 with two titles in 2023 and will rise to No. 2 in the WTA rankings on Monday.

The only set she has dropped all tournament was the opener on Saturday against Rybakina, who eliminated No. 1 Iga Swiatek in the fourth round.

It was telling that Sabalenka's remarks during the post-match ceremony were directed at her coach, Anton Dubrov, and her fitness trainer, Jason Stacy — she referred to them as "the craziest team on tour."

"We've been through a lot of, I would say, downs last year," said Sabalenka, who was appearing in her first major final and had been 0-3 in Slam semifinals until this week. "We worked so hard and you guys deserve this trophy."

Sabalenka's serves produced 17 aces, which helped erase the sting of seven double-faults. Her groundstrokes and relentlessly aggressive style produced 51 winners, 20 more than Rybakina's total. And, despite her go-for-broke shotmaking, somehow Sabalenka limited her unforced error count to 28. One more key statistic: Sabalenka managed to accrue 13 break points, converting three, including the one at 4-3 in the last set that put her ahead for good.

Finals

Championship match results from the Australian Open:

WOMEN'S SINGLES

■ Aryna Sabalenka (5), Belarus, d. Elena Rybakina (22), Kazakhstan, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

MEN'S DOUBLES

■ Jason Kubler-Rinky Hijikata, Australia, d. Hugo Nys, Monaco-Jan Zielinski, Poland, 6-4, 7-6 (4).

For results from today's early-morning men's singles final between No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas and No. 4 Novak Djokovic, visit latimes.com/sports.

PRO CALENDAR

	SUN 29	MON 30	TUE 31	WED 1	THU 2
LAKERS		**at Brooklyn** 4:30 SpecSN	**at New York** 4:30 SpecSN		**at Indiana** 4 SpecSN
CLIPPERS	**at Cleveland** 4 BSSC		**at Chicago** 5 BSSC		**at Milwaukee** 7 TNT
KINGS			**at Carolina** 4 BSW		
DUCKS	**NEXT: FEB. 6 AT DALLAS, 5:30 P.M., BSW**				

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
9 a.m.	IMSA Sportscars, Rolex 24 at Daytona	**TV:** 4
BASKETBALL		
4 p.m.	Clippers at Cleveland	**TV:** BSSC **R:** 570, 1330
5 p.m.	G League, Santa Cruz at South Bay Lakers	**TV:** SpecSN
5 p.m.	New Orleans at Milwaukee	**TV:** NBA
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
9 a.m.	St. Joseph's at George Mason	**TV:** USA
9 a.m.	Providence at Villanova	**TV:** FS1
9 a.m.	Boston U. at Lehigh	**TV:** CBSSN
9 a.m.	Wichita State at East Carolina	**TV:** ESPNU
9 a.m.	Michigan at Penn State	**TV:** Big Ten
9 a.m.	Women, Louisville at Syracuse	**TV:** ACC
9:15 a.m.	Michigan State at Purdue	**TV:** 2
10 a.m.	Women, South Carolina at Alabama	**TV:** ESPN2
10 a.m.	Women, Texas A&M at Vanderbilt	**TV:** SEC
11 a.m.	Women, UCLA at Utah	**TV:** Pac-12
11 a.m.	Women, USC at Colorado	**TV:** Pac-12LA
11 a.m.	Georgetown at St. John's	**TV:** FS1
11 a.m.	Women, Villanova at Connecticut	**TV:** CBSSN
11 a.m.	Women, Tulane at Houston	**TV:** ESPNU
11 a.m.	Rutgers at Iowa	**TV:** Big Ten
11 a.m.	Women, Duke at Florida State	**TV:** ACC
Noon	Women, Notre Dame at North Carolina State	**TV:** ESPN
Noon	Drake at Belmont	**TV:** ESPN2
Noon	Women, Missouri at Kentucky	**TV:** SEC
1 p.m.	Women, St. Joseph's at Richmond	**TV:** CBSSN
1 p.m.	South Florida at Southern Methodist	**TV:** ESPNU
1 p.m.	Women, Oregon at Stanford	**TV:** Pac-12
1 p.m.	Women, North Carolina at Clemson	**TV:** ACC
2 p.m.	Memphis at Tulsa	**TV:** ESPN2
2 p.m.	Women, Mississippi at Arkansas	**TV:** SEC
3 p.m.	Women, Kansas State at Kansas	**TV:** ESPNU
3 p.m.	Women, Michigan State at Illinois	**TV:** Big Ten
3 p.m.	Women, Virginia Tech at Virginia	**TV:** ACC
COLLEGE WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS		
3 p.m.	Oregon State at UCLA	**TV:** Pac-12, Pac-12LA
COLLEGE WRESTLING		
1 p.m.	Northwestern at Rutgers	**TV:** Big Ten
FIGURE SKATING		
Noon	U.S. Championships	**TV:** 4
GOLF		
1:30 p.m.	APGA Tour, Farmers Insurance Invitational	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
2 p.m.	Washington at Toronto	**TV:** NHL
4 p.m.	Premier Hockey Federation, All-Star Game	**TV:** ESPN2
HORSE RACING		
Noon	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** BSSC
1 p.m.	America's Day at the Races	**TV:** FS1
PICKLEBALL		
8 a.m.	MLP, Mesa, Ariz., semifinal	**TV:** Tennis
11 a.m.	MLP, Mesa, Ariz., semifinal	**TV:** Tennis
3 p.m.	MLP, Mesa, Ariz., final	**TV:** Tennis
PRO FOOTBALL: NFL CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS		
Noon	NFC, San Francisco at Philadelphia	**TV:** 11, FOXD
3:30 p.m.	AFC, Cincinnati at Kansas City	**TV:** 2
SOCCER		
5 a.m.	Spain, Valencia at Valladolid	**TV:** ESPND
6 a.m.	France, Toulouse at Strasbourg	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
7:15 a.m.	Spain, Atletico Madrid at Osasuna	**TV:** ESPND
8 a.m.	France, Lyon at Ajaccio	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
9:15 a.m.	Spain, Atletico Club at Celta	**TV:** ESPND
9:30 a.m.	Mexico, Leon at Toluca	**TV:** KMEX, TUDN **R:** 1330
10 a.m.	Portugal, Portimonense at Boavista	**TV:** GOLTV
Noon	France, Reims at Paris Saint-Germain	**TV:** beIN1, beINes
Noon	Spain, Real Sociedad at Real Madrid	**TV:** ESPND
12:30 p.m.	Portugal, Estoril at Famalicao	**TV:** GOLTV
4 p.m.	Uruguay Super Cup, Nacional vs. Liverpool	**TV:** GOLTV
4:30 p.m.	Mexico, Necaxa at Pachuca	**TV:** TUDN
7 p.m.	Mexico, women, Puebla at Tijuana	**TV:** ESPND
WINTER SPORTS		
10 a.m.	X Games Aspen	**TV:** 7
2 p.m.	X Games Aspen	**TV:** ESPN

LETTERS

Again, fans not sold on Moreno

Mark J. Terrill Associated Press

ANGELS OWNER Arte Moreno decided against selling the franchise, a move that further fired up readers who say that Moreno has a history of bad decisions.

It was with deep sadness for the future of Angels baseball that we learned Arte Moreno is no longer selling the team. A tiger can't change its stripes. Moreno knows money but doesn't know baseball. He spends on the wrong players, guts the scouting and farm systems, and fans still reward him by showing up. No more. It's a shame that Mike Trout's entire career may now be wasted under Moreno's misguided ownership. I can no longer watch.

Michael Coyle
Long Beach

::

How does a supposedly astute businessman come to what should have been a carefully thought-out decision to sell a $2.5-billion business, engage the services of a firm to identify and vet prospective buyers, ask those prospective buyers to do the due diligence they need to perform to make their business decision, and then pull the rug out from all parties, as well as a majority of his fans? Arte Moreno is simply an incompetent owner with a history of bad decisions, starting with changing the team name to the ridiculous Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim.

Bob Kyle
Newport Beach

::

If Moreno and the Angels are serious about having a positive impact on the fan experience, then we can add to Dylan Hernández's to-do list: Strike a deal to bring Bally Sports West to Frontier Communications so Frontier subscribers can watch Angels games at home.

Murray Zichlinsky
Long Beach

::

So Arte Moreno has "unfinished business" with the Angels.

What could that be Arte? Further involvement in baseball decisions? Another franchise destroying Pujols/Rendon/Hamilton deal? Refusal to invest in player development? Slapping more Band-Aids on a dilapidated stadium? Letting the greatest player in baseball walk next year? The fact is you've had two decades of strikeouts, creating a losing culture.

Jim Fredrick
Manhattan Beach

::

I just saw the news that Arte Moreno has decided against selling the Angels. The article insinuated Mr. Moreno still wants to win. If Mr. Moreno wished to win they should start by signing top-tier free agents instead of second- and third-tier players or players coming off of major surgeries.

I don't believe Shohei Ohtani has the loyalty of Mike Trout, so when they finish in the second division next year Ohtani will go to a winning team with a chance to get a ring.

Bob Sands
La Habra

::

Hearing the news that Arte Moreno is not selling the team and remaining the owner of the Angels is like hearing the Titanic is keeping its current ship's captain.

Barry Smith
Thousand Oaks

Blame Cronin

It's a shame Bruins coach Mick Cronin can't update his game. You can't question the heart of a team that grabs 15 offensive rebounds and forces 16 turnovers, including six steals. What you can question is the poise and mental readiness of a team that fails to put back even a few of those offensive boards, constantly goes for tips instead of shots, and seems to have forgotten the use of the backboard inside six feet, including layups. That's coaching, and that's on Mick Cronin.

Mitch Paradise
Los Angeles

::

Notice how Mick Cronin always blames his players for losses and never takes any responsibility himself or gives credit to the opposing team? In a loss to Arizona, Cronin accused his players of not playing with heart when they had clearly played their hearts out for 40 minutes.

Arizona was the better team that day playing on its home court and the UCLA players played extremely hard and valiant in defeat. You'll never hear Cronin say that. He's one of those faultless coaches who heaps all the blame on his players. They deserve better.

Tom Tyner
Clovis

::

The shot clock violation buzzer when the Bruins are defending is music to my ears. The more often we hear it, the closer the Bruins will be to a national championship. You rock, Coach Cronin.

Mel Spitz
Beverly Hills

::

How many games does UCLA have to lose before Mick "defense is the be-all and end-all" Cronin hires an assistant coach who knows how to coach the offense? Just curious.

Mark Mead
San Diego

Not Rolen with it

Scott Rolen is not a Hall of Famer. Not a chance. He was bland and steady and just another guy in the clubhouse. I can't even try to compare him to the greats of baseball who have not been accepted: Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens, Manny Ramirez. Those men are baseball gods. Scott Rolen is mortal at best.

Sean Gregson
Rancho Palos Verdes

::

Quick, name some of the all-time great third basemen: Brooks Robinson. Mike Schmidt. George Brett. Pie Traynor. Eddie Mathews. Scott Rolen?

The election, and subsequent induction, of Scott Rolen to the Baseball Hall of Fame cheapens the Hall for all who came before him. The Hall is meant to symbolize greatness; not above average.

Ron Yukelson
San Luis Obispo

::

There are perpetrators of injustices and inequities in life and then there are baseball's Hall of Fame sportswriters. Jeff Kent's lifetime stats exceeded or matched Hall of Famers Joe Morgan, Bill Mazeroski, Nellie Fox and Ryne Sandberg. Kent joins Lou Whitaker on the victims of myopic sportswriters' bench alongside Maury Wills, Alan Trammell and many others. I think it's time to vote the sportswriters out.

Paul Shubunka
Santa Clarita

Editor's note: Trammell was elected to the Hall of Fame by the Modern Baseball Era Committee.

Three-point idea

On Monday, NBA games included scores of 150-130 and 147-127. The Lakers had a huge comeback win over Portland, which shot 17 for 46 from the three-point line. I understand why there is a proliferation of three-point shots taken (sometimes at the expense of layups), but the shot should be more difficult and the line moved back.

Ken Feldman
Tarzana

::

The Times welcomes expressions of all views. Letters should be brief and become the property of The Times. They may be edited and republished in any format. Each must include a valid mailing address and telephone number. Pseudonyms will not be used.

Email: sports@latimes.com

Right at home: Homa uses rally to win Farmers Open

Burbank native shoots six-under 66 to erase a five-shot deficit for his sixth PGA Tour title.

By Kirk Kenney

GREGORY BULL Associated Press

MAX HOMA embraces Collin Morikawa after making a birdie on the 18th hole to win the Farmers Open.

LA JOLLA — Max Homa entertained and enlightened CBS viewers Friday when he was miked up for one hole during the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open.

Choosing him to debut the new feature was easy, given Homa has half a million followers on Twitter.

"Everybody else calls me the social media guy," Homa said. "I still think I'm a pretty darn good golfer. ... I like to say dumb things and make dumb jokes and observe weird stuff and tweet about them.

"But when I work, when I practice, when I play tournaments, this is what I love. I love what today was. It was incredible."

Homa shot a six-under 66 in Saturday's final round at Torrey Pines to overcome a five-stroke deficit and beat Keegan Bradley by two shots. The victory was Homa's sixth on the PGA Tour, four of them coming in his home state. He was born in Burbank, went to high school in Valencia and earned a degree from Cal.

Homa knows something about struggle. Twice over the last eight years, he had to earn back his tour card. Homa knows something about success. He came into the Farmers as the world's No. 16-ranked player.

Homa has the word "relentless" tattooed on his arm. The Farmers is his fourth victory that required coming from behind to win.

"It's a beautiful game," said Homa, who won $1.566 million on Saturday. "Sometimes you're just one good swing thought from being good again."

One man's joy is measured against another's disappointment. Sam Ryder shared the first-round lead and was alone atop the leaderboard after the second and third rounds before Saturday.

Ryder was four holes from a potential victory when things unraveled. A double bogey at the par-four 15th hole dropped him out of the lead. Ryder finished tied for fourth, four shots behind Homa, after carding a three-over 75.

"It's a very fine line between par and double bogey out here on this course," said Ryder, whose struggles on the 15th came while ankle-deep in Torrey's infamous rough. "[I] battled a lot, but, hopefully, there's going to be more opportunities."

Ryder was bidding for his first PGA Tour victory. He could have also become the Farmers' first wire-to-wire winner since Johnny Miller in 1982.

"There was definitely a lot of new pressure, but it was fun," Ryder said. "I was trying to just enjoy it. Like, you know, it was a good experience for me and I think it's only going to feed me."

Whatever butterflies he might have experienced on the first tee — where he put his drive in a fairway bunker — were set free when Ryder hit his second shot 13 feet from the pin and nailed the birdie putt.

When playing partner Jon Rahm bogeyed the hole, suddenly Ryder had a four-shot lead.

Bradley made a move when he birdied the par-five 13th hole to get within three shots of the lead. Three more birdies on the back weren't quite enough.

Homa made a steady climb up the leaderboard with four birdies on the front. When Ryder bogeyed Nos. 6 and 7, dropping to 11 under for the tournament, Homa saw an opportunity.

A seven-foot birdie putt fell on the ninth hole, and Homa had a share of the lead. He fell behind briefly with a bogey on the 14th hole, but flipped into the lead a hole later when Ryder doubled the 15th.

Bradley birdied 17 to get within a stroke of the lead.

Homa didn't flinch, capping his victory with a four-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

His wife, Lacey, was waiting behind the 18th green. A TV camera captured her excitedly jump up and down as the putt fell, then checking to make sure she didn't disturb young son, Cam, who was strapped to her chest.

Homa's first victory as a father had extra meaning.

"I work hard at two things now," Homa said, "so it feels a little bit more difficult but it's a million times more rewarding. To see them behind the 18th green knowing I was probably about to win a golf tournament was cool."

Kenny writes for the San Diego-Union Tribune.

GOLF LEADERS

$8.7-MILLION FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN
At La Jolla—Par 72
Torrey Pines, South Course, 7,765 yards;
North Course, 7,258 yards
Final 72-hole scores

Max Homa $1,566,000	68-70-71-66–275
K. Bradley $948,300	70-73-68-66–277
C. Morikawa $600,300	67-72-70-69–278
Sungjae Im $366,125	68-74-67-70–279
Sam Ryder $366,125	64-68-72-75–279
S. Theegala $366,125	66-72-71-70–279
Jason Day $282,750	68-71-73-68–280
Jon Rahm $282,750	73-67-66-74–280
Tony Finau $245,775	73-71-64a73–281
H. Matsyma $245,775	70-73-69-69–281
R. Fowler $210,975	72-72-67-72–283
Taylor Moore $210,975	72-68-72-71–283
Erik Barnes , $160,515	72-72-71-69–284
Joe Bramlett $160,515	69-71-71-73–284
X. Schffele $160,515	72-71-69-72–284
S. Stevens $160,515	66-72-73-73–284
J. Walker $160,515	69-71-72-72–284
Justin Rose $128,325	73-70-70-72–285
Kevin Tway $128,325	72-72-69-72–285
Seon. Kim $98,919	67-74-69-76–286
Peter Malnati $98,919	69-74-72-71–286
Adam Schenk $98,919	71-73-68-74–286
B. Steele $98,919	65-70-76-75–286
Justin Suh $98,919	68-75-71-72–286
Brent Grant $66,845	64-74-77-72–287
Si Woo Kim $66,845	69-73-72-73–287
Luke List $66,845	67-75-73-72–287
Callum Tarren $66,845	71-69-72-75–287
J. Thomas $66,845	68-74-73-72–287
Jhon. Vegas $66,845	68-75-70-74–287
Ben Griffin $50,895	67-72-77-72–288
Mav. McNealy $50,895	69-74-71-74–288
T. Montgmry $50,895	67-71-75-75–288
Trey Mullinax $50,895	71-73-70-74–288
Aug.Nunez $50,895	72-69-75-72–288
Scott Piercy $50,895	69-75-70-74–288
D. Burmester $37,845	71-70-72-76–289
Wyn. Clark $37,845	68-74-76-71–289
Thomas Detry $37,845	68-75-70-76–289
Dylan Frittelli $37,845	70-74-72-73–289
Lanto Griffin $37,845	67-75-70-77–289
Alex Smalley $37,845	71-73-71-74–289
M.Thompson , $37,845	69-75-72-73–289
Emi. Grillo $25,578	72-70-74-74–290
A. Hadwin $25,578	70-74-70-76–290
Nick Hardy $25,578	71-73-73-73–290
Harry Higgs $25,578	66-77-72-75–290
Michael Kim $25,578	69-74-70-77–290
S.-Yul Noh $25,578	70-73-74-73–290
Vin. Norrman $25,578	67-71-77-75–290
Kevin Yu $25,578	73-70-70-77–290
Aaron Rai $21,315	64-78-74-75–291
Cam. Champ $20,296	70-72-73-77–292
Austin Cook $20,296	74-70-73-75–292
Tano Goya $20,296	70-67-79-76–292
Garrick Higgo $20,296.	66-76-72-78–292
S. Jaeger $20,296	69-72-76-75–292
S. Kodaira $20,296	68-75-74-75–292
T. Werbylo $20,296	71-72-73-76–292
T. Pendrith $19,488	69-75-72-77–293
K. Streelman $19,488	73-70-74-76–293
B. Hun An $18,879	68-72-71-83–294
Z. Dou $18,879	70-74-71-79–294
Paul Haley $18,879	68-75-74-77–294
Ryan Palmer $18,879	71-71-70-82–294
G. Woodland $18,879	66-77-78-73–294
R. Shelton $18,270	70-74-75-76–295
T. Semikawa $18,270	74-70-72-79–295
S. Harington $17,835	74-70-74-78–296
Andy Novak $17,835	66-73-80-77–296
D. Thompson $17,835	71-71-74-80–296
Scott Brown $17,487	69-75-77-77–298
Adam Long $17,313	71-73-76-79–299

$9-MILLION DUBAI DESERT CLASSIC
At Dubai, United Arab Emirates—Par 72
Emirates Golf Course—7,428 yards
36-hole leaders

Richard Bland, England	67-67–134	-10
Thomas Pieters, Belgium	67-67–134	-10
Michael Thorbjornsen, U.S.	70-64–134	-10
Adri Arnaus, Spain	67-68–135	-9
Marcus Kinhult, Sweden	70-65–135	-9
Connor Syme, Scotland	68-67–135	-9
Dan Bradbury, England	73-63–136	-8
Lucas Herbert, Australia	69-67–136	-8
Angel Hidalgo, Spain	66-70–136	-8
Rory McIlroy, No. Ireland	66-70–136	-8
Ian Poulter, England	65-71–136	-8
Patrick Reed, United States	66-70–136	-8
Matt Wallace, England	68-68–136	-8
Bernd Wiesberger, Austria	69-67–136	-8
Marcus Armitage, England	69-68â137	-7
Julien Brun, France	70-67–137	-7
Louis De Jager, South Africa	66-71–137	-7
Calum Hill, Scotland	70-67–137	-7
Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark	70-67–137	-7
Callum Shinkwin, England	71-66–137	-7
Johannes Veerman, U.S.	71-66–137	-7
Ludvig Aberg, Sweden	65-73–138	-6
Tommy Fleetwood, England	68-70–138	-6
Daniel Gavins, England	68-70–138	-6
Justin Harding, South Africa	70-68–138	-6
Jacques Kruyswijk, S. Africa	69-69–138	-6
Pablo Larrazabal, Spain	73-65–138	-6
Min Woo Lee, Australia	73-65–138	-6
Shaun Norris, South Africa	71-67–138	-6
Wu Ashun, China	71-68–139	-5
Oliver Bekker, South Africa	68-71–139	-5
Alexander Bjork, Sweden	69-70–139	-5
Jorge Campillo, Spain	70-69–139	-5
Ewen Ferguson, Scotland	71-68–139	-5
Nicolai Hojgaard, Denmark	70-69–139	-5
Romain Langasque, France	69-70–139	-5
Robert Macintyre, Scotland	70-69–139	-5
Adrian Otaegui, Spain	69-70–139	-5
Victor Perez, France	67-72–139	-5
Jeunghun Wang, South Korea	68-71–139	-5
John Catlin, United States	72-68–140	-4
Jens Dantorp, Sweden	69-71–140	-4
Grant Forrest, Scotland	71-69–140	-4
Ryan Fox, New Zealand	69-71–140	-4
Julien Guerrier, France	69-71–140	-4
Chase Hanna, U.S.	70-70–140	-4
Daan Huizing, Netherlands	69-71–140	-4
Jazz Janewattananond, Thailand	72-68–140	-4
Andrew Johnston, England	72-68–140	-4
Matthew Jordan, England	68-72–140	-4
Maximilian Kieffer, Germany	73-67–140	-4
David Law, Scotland	71-69–140	-4
Mikael Lindberg, Sweden	73-67–140	-4
Joost Luiten, Netherlands	70-70–140	-4
Nicolai V. Dellingshausen, Germany	71-69–140	-4
Paul Waring, England	71-69–140	-4
Hennie Du Plessis, South Africa	68-73–141	-3
Marcus Helligkilde, Denmark	70-71–141	-3
Sam Horsfield, England	70-71–141	-3
Niklas Norgaard Moller, Denmark	69-72–141	-3
Lukas Nemecz, Austria	73-68–141	-3
Kalle Samooja, Finland	73-68–141	-3
Darius Van Driel, Netherlands	72-69–141	-3
Lee Westwood, England	71-70–141	-3
Nicolas Colsaerts, Belgium	71-71–142	-2
Luke Donald, England	70-72–142	-2
Jamie Donaldson, Wales	72-70–142	-2
Tyrrell Hatton, England	72-70–142	-2
Daniel Hillier, New Zealand	71-71–142	-2
Rasmus Hojgaard, Denmark	71-71–142	-2
Scott Jamieson, Scotland	72-70–142	-2
Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain	73-69–142	-2
Nathan Kimsey, England	73-69–142	-2
Richard Mansell, England	69-73–142	-2
Yannik Paul, Germany	74-68–142	-2
Tapio Pulkkanen, Finland	70-72–142	-2
Antoine Rozner, France	71-71–142	-2
Marcel Schneider, Germany	71-71–142	-2
Jason Scrivener, Australia	71-71–142	-2
Jordan L. Smith, England	76-66–142	-2
Matthew Southgate, England	71-71–142	-2
Henrik Stenson, Sweden	70-72–142	-2
Andy Sullivan, England	70-72–142	-2
Justin Walters, South Africa	72-70–142	-2
Marc Warren, Scotland	74-68–142	-2
Dale Whitnell, England	71-71–142	-2
Fabrizio Zanotti, Paraguay	69-73–142	-2

Nonqualifiers included:

Abraham Ancer, Mexico	74-69–143	-1
Aaron Cockerill, Canada	73-70–143	-1
Sean Crocker, United States	69-74–143	-1
Nacho Elvira, Spain	72-71–143	-1
Ross Fisher, England	72-71–143	-1
Masahiro Kawamura, Japan	72-71–143	-1
Mikko Korhonen, Finland	72-71–143	-1
Joakim Lagergren, Sweden	76-67–143	-1
Thriston Lawrence, S.Africa	70-73–143	-1
Alexander Levy, France	70-73–143	-1
Guido Migliozzi, Italy	73-70–143	-1
Edoardo Molinari, Italy	74-69–143	-1
Jack Senior, England	72-71–143	-1
Shubhankar Sharma, India	74-69–143	-1
Ockie Strydom, South Africa	72-71–143	-1
Oliver Wilson, England	68-75–143	-1
Thomas Bjorn, Denmark	70-74–144	E
Hurly Long, Germany	76-68–144	E
Adrian Meronk, Poland	74-70–144	E
Matthieu Pavon, France	73-71–144	E
JC Ritchie, South Africa	78-66–144	E
Sami Valimaki, Finland	76-68–144	E
Oliver Jorgensen, Denmark	70-75–145	+1
Shane Lowry, Ireland	70-75–145	+1
Tom McKibbin, No. Ireland	74-71–145	+1
Victor Dubuisson, France	74-72–146	+2

Kings run into a Tampa team hotter than them

L.A.'s win streak ends against Lightning club that's won 12 in a row at home, a team high.

TAMPA BAY 5, KINGS 2

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla. — Brayden Point had a goal and an assist, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the Kings 5-2 on Saturday night for a franchise-record 12th consecutive home win.

Victor Hedman, Pierre-Edouard Bellemare, Corey Perry and Ross Colton also scored for Tampa Bay, which has won three in a row overall. Rookie defenseman Nick Perbix had three assists, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 26 saves.

The Lightning surpassed the franchise mark of 11 straight home wins set in 2019-20 and defeated the Kings for the seventh straight time at Amalie Arena. The Lightning haven't lost at home since Dec. 6.

"We get so motivated to play at home," Colton said after the Lightning improved to 20-4-1 at Amalie Arena. "We have great fans and a great atmosphere."

Tampa Bay swept a three-game homestand against Minnesota, Boston and L.A. to enter the All-Star break on an upswing.

"We played three tough teams — big, strong, fast playoff teams — and our guys handled it well," Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. "The only question was after the big win against the Bruins and the break coming up, how we would handle it."

The Kings had won three in a row. Jaret Anderson-Dolan and Phillip Danault scored for them, and Jonathan Quick made 20 saves.

"We haven't been able to put a game together for Quickie," Kings captain Anze Kopitar. "He's been very solid back there. It's frustrating."

Tampa Bay went ahead to stay with two goals in a 79-second span in the first period.

"Communication in the [defensive] zone, giving up a lot of chances down the pipe. We had to take away chances through the middle, and we didn't at the start," Kings forward Al Iafallo said. "When you don't communicate, it leads to individual [mistakes]. As a whole, we didn't get it done defensively."

LIGHTNING 5, KINGS 2

KINGS	1	1	0	– 2
Tampa Bay	3	1	1	– 5

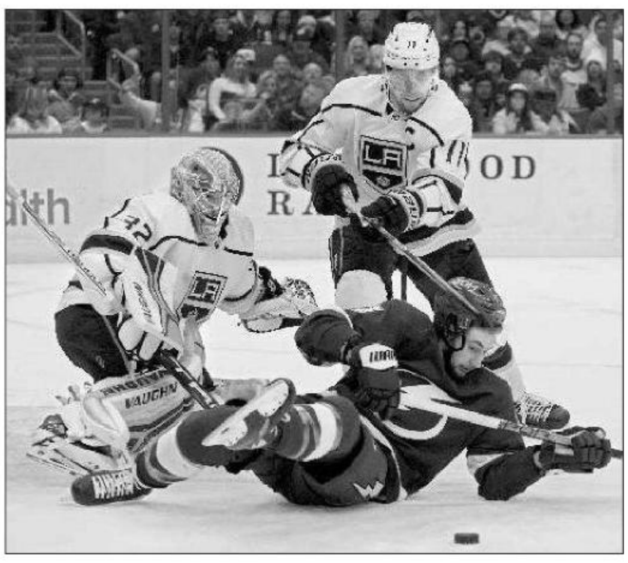
FIRST PERIOD: 1. Tam., Point 29 (Kucherov), 5:02. 2. Tam., Bellemare 3 (Perbix), 6:21. 3. KINGS, Anderson-Dolan 6 (Fiala), 10:12. 4. Tam., Perry 9 (Namestnikov, Perbix), 15:57. **Penalty—**Doughty, KINGS (Tripping), 19:41.

SECOND PERIOD: 5. Tam., Colton 10 (Perbix, Maroon), 15:20. 6. KINGS, Danault 14 (Doughty, Iafallo), 19:08. **Penalty—**Kucherov, T.B. (Tripping), 0:46.

THIRD PERIOD: 7. Tam., Hedman 4 (Point, Stamkos), 16:03. **Penalties—**Durzi, KINGS (High Sticking), 9:01. Hedman, T.B. (Roughing), 17:30. Cernak, T.B. (Misconduct), 18:04. Danault, KINGS (Misconduct), 18:04.

SHOTS ON GOAL: KINGS 10-9-9–28. T.B. 7-17-1–25. Power-play conversions–KINGS 0 of 2. T.B. 0 of 2.

GOALIES: KINGS, Quick 8-12-4 (25 shots-20 saves). Tam., Vasilevskiy 23-12-1 (28-26). Att–19,092 (19,092). T–2:30.



CHRIS O'MEARA Associated Press

ANTHONY CIRELLI of Tampa Bay is felled by Anze Kopitar in front of Kings goaltender Jonathan Quick.

NHL STANDINGS

Sixteen teams qualify for the Stanley Cup playoffs. The format is a set bracket that is largely division-based with wild cards. The top three teams in each division will make up the first 12 teams in the playoffs. The remaining four spots will be filled by the next two highest-placed finishers in each conference, based on regular-season record, and regardless of division.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	29	15	5	63	177	151
Vegas	29	18	4	62	160	148
KINGS	28	18	6	62	169	178
Edmonton	28	18	4	60	187	163
Calgary	24	17	9	57	160	153
Vancouver	20	26	3	43	166	196
San Jose	15	25	11	41	157	196
DUCKS	16	29	5	37	125	205
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	28	13	10	66	173	133
Winnipeg	31	19	1	63	163	135
Minnesota	27	17	4	58	151	138
Colorado	27	18	3	57	151	133
Nashville	24	18	6	54	137	141
St. Louis	23	24	3	49	154	181
Arizona	16	28	6	38	131	177
Chicago	15	29	4	34	118	176

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	31	9	8	70	159	130
New Jersey	32	13	4	68	171	131
NY Rangers	27	14	8	62	157	129
Washington	26	19	6	58	161	144
Pittsburgh	24	16	9	57	161	153
NY Islanders	25	22	5	55	148	144
Philadelphia	21	21	9	51	142	162
Columbus	15	32	3	33	128	194
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Boston	38	6	5	81	186	105
Toronto	30	12	8	68	168	135
Tampa Bay	32	15	1	65	175	141
Buffalo	26	19	4	56	185	165
Florida	24	22	6	54	178	183
Detroit	21	19	8	50	145	160
Ottawa	23	23	3	49	146	155
Montreal	20	26	4	44	130	184

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

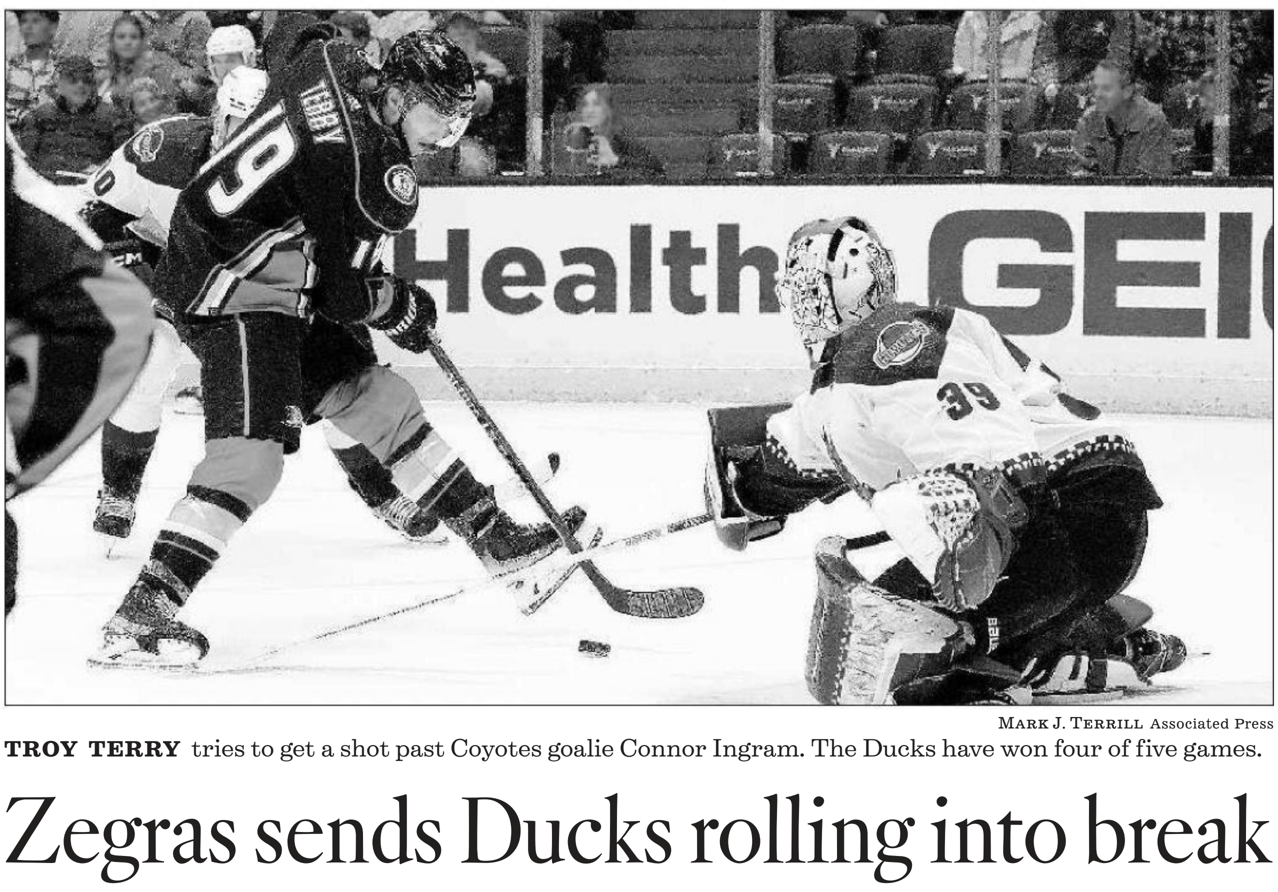
RESULTS

AT TAMPA BAY 5 KINGS 2	Brayden Point had a goal and an assist, and Tampa Bay earned a franchise-record 12th consecutive home win.
AT DUCKS 2 ARIZONA 1 (OT)	Trevor Zegras scored 3:34 into overtime and John Gibson made 32 saves as the Ducks won their third in a row.
AT FLORIDA 4 BOSTON 3 (OT)	Sam Reinhart scored 17 seconds into overtime after Alex Barkov tied it with 2.4 seconds left in regulation.
AT OTTAWA 5 MONTREAL 0	Claude Giroux had two goals and an assist and Anton Forsberg had 28 saves as Ottawa won its third in a row.
PHILADELPHIA 4 AT WINNIPEG 0	Carter Hart posted his first shutout of the season and Philadelphia is 7-1-1 in its last nine road games.
SAN JOSE 6 AT PITTSBURGH 4	Logan Couture had two goals and three assists as San Jose ended its four-game losing streak.
AT NY ISLANDERS 2 VEGAS 1 (OT)	Mathew Barzal scored in the final minute of the extra period and Semyon Varlamov stopped a penalty shot.
AT MINNESOTA 3 BUFFALO 2 (SO)	Kirill Kaprizov scored the decisive goal in the shootout and the Wild won their second in a row.
AT EDMONTON 7 CHICAGO 3	Tyson Barrie scored two goals and Darnell Nurse collected three assists in the Oilers' rout of the Blackhawks.
AT SEATTLE 3 COLUMBUS 1	Alex Wennberg scored the decisive goal in the second period and Philipp Grubauer had 24 saves for the Kraken.
AT COLORADO 4 ST. LOUIS 2	Alex Newhook tallied on his birthday for the second year in a row and Colorado won its seventh in eight games.

TODAY'S GAMES

Boston at Carolina, 2 p.m.

Washington at Toronto, 2 p.m.



MARK J. TERRILL Associated Press

TROY TERRY tries to get a shot past Coyotes goalie Connor Ingram. The Ducks have won four of five games.

Zegras sends Ducks rolling into break

He scores in overtime to give them their first three-game win streak before All-Star hiatus.

DUCKS 2
ARIZONA 1 (OT)

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trevor Zegras scored at 3:34 of overtime and the Ducks beat the Arizona Coyotes 2-1 on Saturday night for their first three-game winning streak of the season.

John Klingberg stole the puck from Matias Maccelli in the offensive zone and found Zegras in the slot for a wrist shot for his 18th goal.

Max Jones also scored, and John Gibson made 32 saves. The Ducks have won four of their last five games.

Nick Ritchie scored and Connor Ingram made 43 saves for the Coyotes.

It was the last game before the All-Star break for both teams, who are firmly in contention to win the NHL draft lottery and select Connor Bedard with the first overall pick in June.

Jones tied it 1-1 for the Ducks with 7:28 left in the second period. He scored his fourth goal on a wrist shot from the right circle, set up by assists from the defensive pair of Klingberg and Urho Vaakanainen.

The Coyotes had the only goal in the first period. Christian Fischer found Ritchie in the slot to shoot into an open net with 3:39 remaining, good for Ritchie's ninth of the season.

It was the third point in the last two games for former Ducks prospect Ritchie.

Zegras received a 10-minute misconduct for cross-checking Barrett Hayton during a power play. Zegras also said something during the ensuing scrum that made defenseman Troy Stecher irate.

Ducks defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk missed his second straight game because of a lower-body injury.

DUCKS 2, COYOTES 1, OT

Arizona	1	0	0	0	– 1
DUCKS	0	1	0	1	– 2

FIRST PERIOD: 1. Arizona, Ritchie 9 (Fischer, Boyd), 16:21. **Penalties—**Ritchie, ARI (Roughing), 12:27. Hayton, ARI (Holding), 19:45.

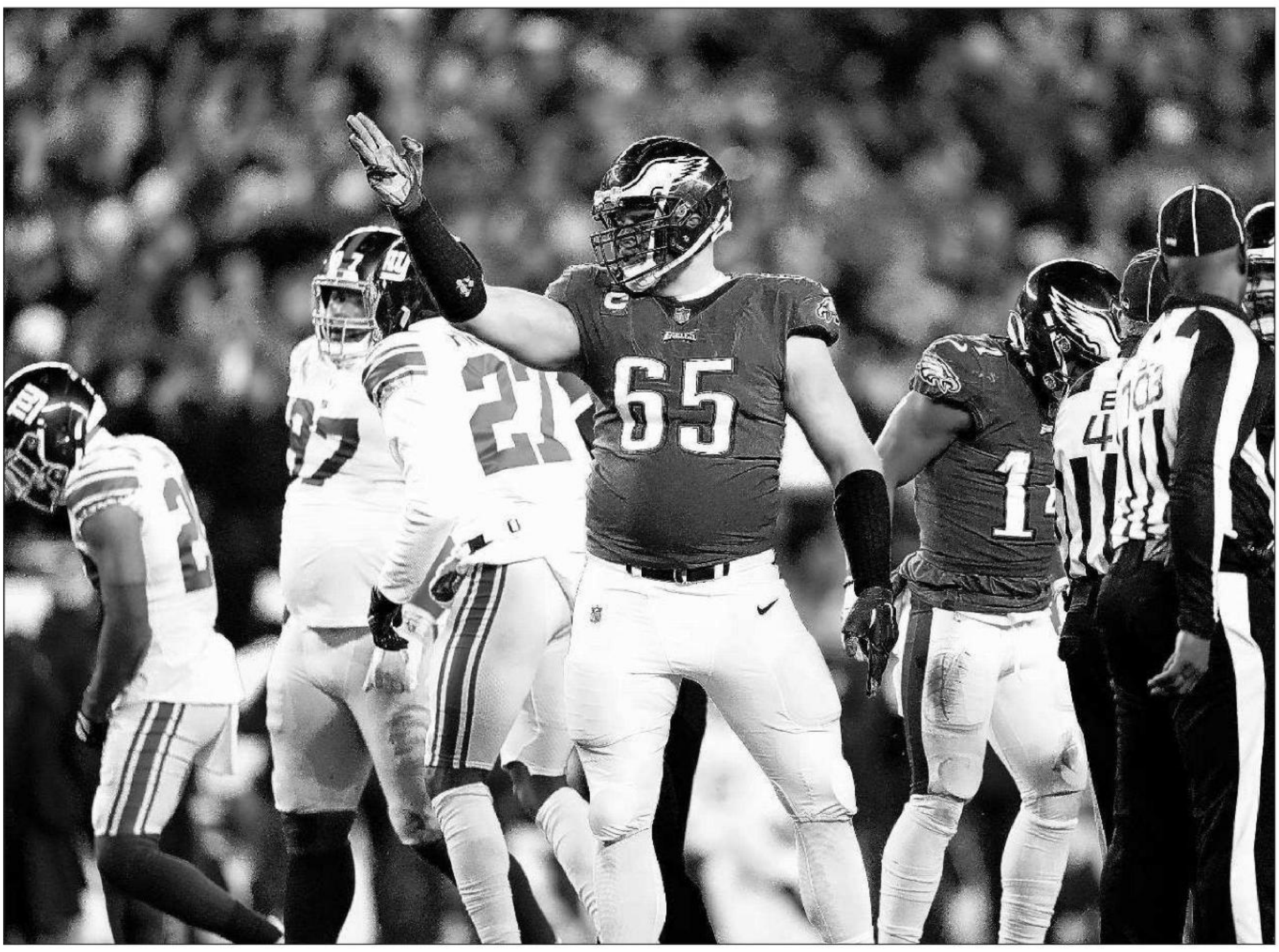
SECOND PERIOD: 2. DUCKS, Jones 4 (Klingberg, Vaakanainen), 12:32. **Penalties—**Carrick, DUCKS (Cross Checking), 9:12. Chychrun, ARI (Tripping), 10:03. Arizona bench, served by Maccelli (Tripping), 13:28. Henrique, DUCKS (High Sticking), 13:37. Zegras, DUCKS (Roughing), 13:37. Zegras, DUCKS (Misconduct), 13:37. Hayton, ARI (Roughing), 13:37.

THIRD PERIOD: Scoring–None. **Penalties—**Strome, DUCKS (Tripping), 1:38. Klingberg, DUCKS (Roughing), 4:39.

OVERTIME: 3. DUCKS, Zegras 18 (Klingberg), 3:34. **Penalties—**None.

SHOTS ON GOAL: Arizona 10-6-16-1–33. DUCKS 16-20-6-4–46. Power-play conversions–Arizona 0 of 4. DUCKS 0 of 4.

GOALIES: Arizona, Ingram 3-11-2 (46 shots-43 saves). DUCKS, Gibson 10-20-4 (33-32). Att–16,126 (17,174). T–2:39.



MATT SLOCUM Associated Press

EAGLES TACKLE Lane Johnson put off surgery on an injured groin muscle so that he would be available for the postseason. Duke Manyweather, an offensive line expert, says Johnson being able to play through the injury will be key for Philadelphia against San Francisco.

Offensive line must be in sync

[**NFC,** from D1]
come in the NFC championship game against the formidable defensive front of the San Francisco 49ers.

"That's strength on strength, maybe the best positional battle we've seen all year," Mitchell Schwartz said.

Schwartz should know. He was an All-Pro right tackle for the Kansas City Chiefs who retired last summer after nine NFL seasons.

He'll be watching Sunday's conference title games from the comfort of his recliner — 49ers at Eagles followed by Cincinnati at Kansas City — and especially the drama along the offensive lines that often goes unnoticed to the unpracticed eye.

"This is an offensive lineman's dream to watch these two games," Schwartz said. "I'll enjoy watching it at home. I'll go down to my basement. I got my La-Z-Boy for a reason."

A lineman of particular interest is exceptional Eagles right tackle Lane Johnson, who opted to put off surgery on an injured groin so that he might play in the postseason.

"The key is going to be, can Lane really lock in for all four quarters and battle through that injury?" said offensive line expert Duke Manyweather, who co-hosts the "Trench Warfare" podcast. "As we've seen, as Lane goes so go the Eagles. You could make the argument that he's their team MVP."

The key to good line play? Communication and repetition.

"If all five guys up front are doing the same thing, even if it's wrong, the quarterback and the back can fix it," said legendary Philadelphia tackle Jon Runyan, who retired in 2009 and was named to the Eagles' 75th anniversary team. "But if three guys are doing one thing, and two guys are doing another, the quarterback's on his back."

Another matchup to watch is how Cincinnati's patchwork offensive line — which relied on three backups in the divisional round win at Buffalo — will fare against Kansas City's defensive front, and in particular the dominant and disruptive tackle Chris Jones.

"Chris Jones is going to be a problem," Manyweather said. "I think that advantage goes to Kansas City's defensive line. I think it's a great story that Cincinnati has brought in backups and battled through adversity. But sometimes the cream of the crop is going to rise."

The Bengals benefit from quarterback Joe Burrow's quick release. Still, he was sacked at least once in every game this season, including seven times in the opener against Pittsburgh, six times the next week against Dallas, and four times by Baltimore in a wild-card game. That sets the stage for Kansas City.

When the Chiefs are on offense, it doesn't make the task easier for the blockers that typically mobile quarterback Patrick Mahomes will be playing with a high-ankle sprain that last week had him throwing off one foot, or sometimes leaving his feet entirely to release the ball.

"We saw last week that he had the ability to put mind over matter and just say, 'It doesn't matter if I'm injured. I'm going to go out there and do my thing,' " Schwartz said. "You don't see that from a quarterback that often."

Rookie Brock Purdy is starting at quarterback for San Francisco.

He was the last player selected in last year's draft and began the season as a third-stringer before starting because of injuries to Trey Lance and Jimmy Garoppolo.

The 49ers are 7-0 with Purdy at quarterback, with two playoff wins.

Schwartz said that although he loved his years with the Chiefs, San Francisco's scheme is especially friendly to offensive linemen.

"Kyle Shanahan's offense is much less about the drop-back passing game and so much more about play-action and making things look like run," he said. "That makes things a little bit easier on linemen. So you're tending to be more aggressive and less tentative more often. You can play a full game and have only eight true drop-backs because even on, say, third and 12 you're throwing a screen to Deebo Samuel or Christian McCaffrey. As an offensive lineman, you like that."

When an offensive line is playing well, it typically doesn't garner much attention.

It's when things are going wrong that fans tend to notice.

"It's the most skilled position in football," said Mark Schlereth, who played guard for 12 seasons and won three Super Bowl rings — one with Washington, two with Denver. "We're the worst athletes collectively by far, yet we're supposed to win 100% of the battles. If we don't, we suck and the other guy goes to the Pro Bowl. That's the life we all live."

Which two teams will make the Super Bowl?

We asked readers of our Sports Report newsletter, "Which two teams will make the Super Bowl?" After 1,356 votes, the results:

- Cincinnati vs. Philadelphia, 35.8%
- Cincinnati vs. San Francisco, 27.9%
- Kansas City vs. Philadelphia, 21%
- Kansas City vs. San Francisco, 15.3%

Burrow duels Mahomes for AFC crown

[**AFC,** from D1]
game at Arrowhead Stadium.

Or, as Bengals cornerback Mike Hilton dubbed it, "Burrowhead."

That's the moniker Hilton gave the venue based on the Bengals' recent success against the Chiefs.

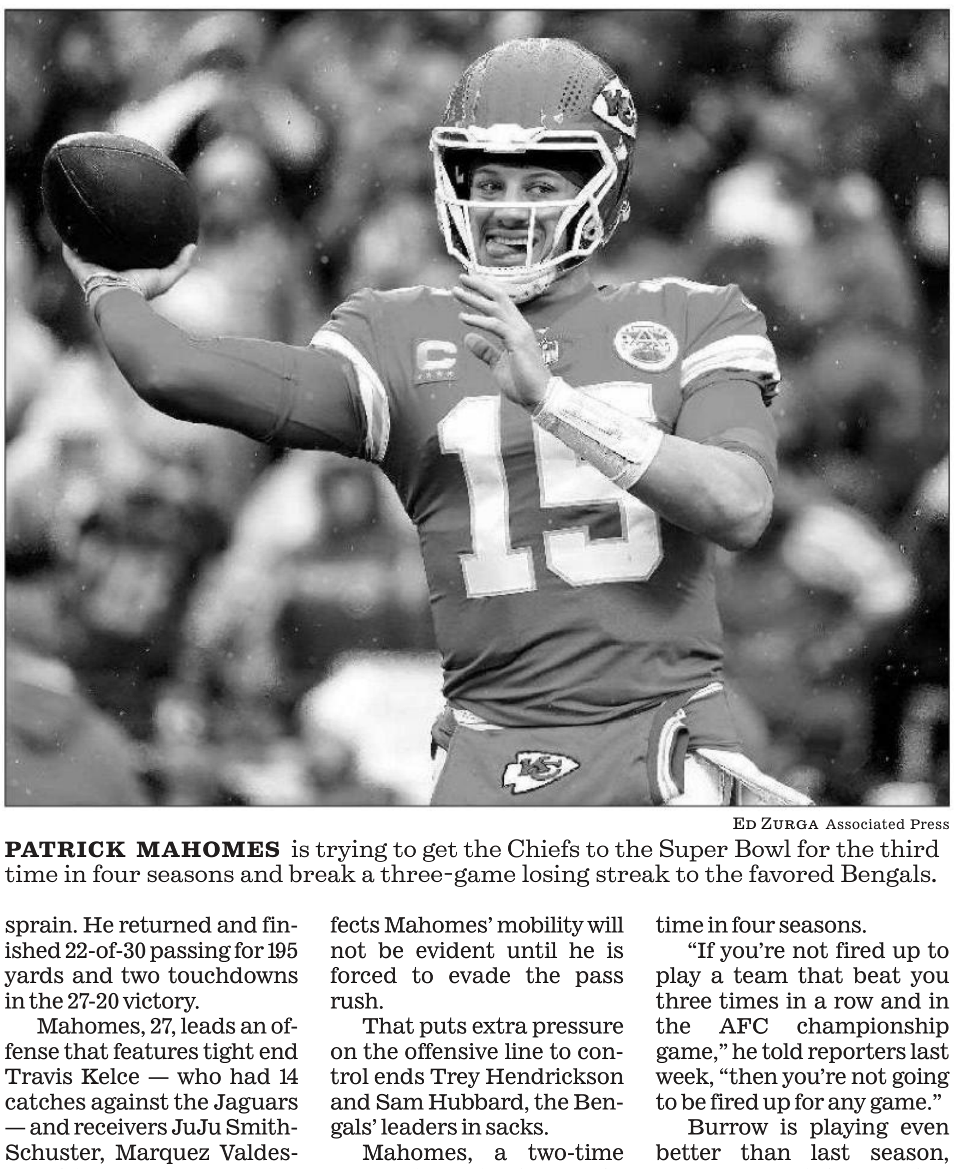
The Bengals, under coach Zac Taylor, have defeated the Chiefs and coach Andy Reid three games in a row. That includes a come-from-behind 27-24 overtime victory in last season's championship game and a 27-24 victory this season on Dec. 4 in Cincinnati.

That success, and a right ankle injury suffered by Mahomes in last week's divisional-round victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars, made the Bengals the early favorite by oddsmakers.

Burrow, 26, is supremely confident, but he did not sound entirely sold on the favorite status.

"We know what team we're playing — a team that's been to this game the last five seasons, and they've all been in that stadium," Burrow told reporters last week. "So, to me, they're still the team to beat, and we're coming for them."

The Chiefs have won six games in a row since their December loss to the Bengals. Mahomes, who passed for a league-best 5,250 yards and 41 touchdowns during the regular season, left the Jan. 21 divisional-round game against the Jaguars after suffering the ankle sprain. He returned and finished 22-of-30 passing for 195 yards and two touchdowns in the 27-20 victory.



ED ZURGA Associated Press

PATRICK MAHOMES is trying to get the Chiefs to the Super Bowl for the third time in four seasons and break a three-game losing streak to the favored Bengals.

Mahomes, 27, leads an offense that features tight end Travis Kelce — who had 14 catches against the Jaguars — and receivers JuJu Smith-Schuster, Marquez Valdes-Scantling and Kadarius Toney. Running back Isiah Pacheco is the top rusher.

How the ankle issue affects Mahomes' mobility will not be evident until he is forced to evade the pass rush.

That puts extra pressure on the offensive line to control ends Trey Hendrickson and Sam Hubbard, the Bengals' leaders in sacks.

Mahomes, a two-time All-Pro, is looking forward to the challenge as the Chiefs attempt to advance to the Super Bowl for the third time in four seasons.

"If you're not fired up to play a team that beat you three times in a row and in the AFC championship game," he told reporters last week, "then you're not going to be fired up for any game."

Burrow is playing even better than last season, when he had his team on the brink of defeating the Rams in the Super Bowl.

This season, he passed for 4,475 yards and 35 touchdowns, with 12 interceptions.

The Bengals, winners of 10 games in a row, feature perhaps the NFL's top receiving corps in Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd. Tight end Hayden Hurst, receiver Trenton Irwin and running backs Joe Mixon and Samaje Perine are other targets.

Burrow completed 23 of 36 passes for 242 yards and two touchdowns in last Sunday's 27-10 victory over the Buffalo Bills while Mixon rushed for 105 yards and a touchdown.

Burrow will be working against a Chiefs defense that includes rookie cornerbacks Trent McDuffie and Jaylen Watson.

Chiefs All-Pro tackle Chris Jones and veteran end Frank Clark will lead the rush against Burrow.

"He's got that Peyton Manning in him," Clark told reporters, adding, "He knows how to read safeties and he knows how to read the defense. ... When you're a defense that can't really disguise the coverage or disguise things, he's going to pick you apart every time."

Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo put it another way when describing Burrow's ability to maintain his poise and make plays.

"The word I come up with is nifty," he said. "He never panics in the pocket. It feels like he's got six eyeballs around his head."

Mott's long shot collects victory

By John Cherwa

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. — Art Collector made his way into the mainstream of horse racing after winning the Blue Grass Stakes in 2020.

He was creating buzz heading into the Kentucky Derby, which was being run Sept. 5 because of the pandemic. Then a minor foot injury sidelined him and he had to wait for the Preakness Stakes and finished fourth.

Since then, the now 6-year-old has won his share of races, five to be exact, including the Grade 1 Woodward Stakes at Belmont Park. Yet he never had that career-defining big win.

It all changed Saturday when the 15-1 long shot ran solidly and confidently in the stretch to win the $3-million Pegasus World Cup at Gulfstream Park.

Defunded passed early leader Stilleto Boy midway down the backstretch. Art Collector was in third but well positioned on the outside. Down the stretch Defunded was clearly second best and Art Collector blew past him to win by 4½ lengths.

"We scripted it that way and it turned out that way," said winning trainer Bill Mott. "That doesn't happen very often but [jockey] Junior [Alvarado] rode him and did a great job. ... These are competitive races. You get the horse as good as you can and hope the horse shows up."

It was the first time that Alvarado had ridden the horse, with Luis Saez being his regular jockey. But Saez chose to ride Get Her Number for trainer Peter Miller.

"I don't know how it gets any better than this," Alvarado said. "It's unbelievable having this win with Mott. I'm very grateful for the big support he's given me over the years. I'm just very happy right now."

Art Collector paid $33.00, $12.40 and $8.60. Defunded was second, followed by Stilleto Boy, Last Samurai, Proxy, Cyberknife, Skippylongstocking, White Abarrio, Get Her Number, Simplification, O'Connor and Ridin With Biden. Defunded, Stilleto Boy and Get Her Number are based at Santa Anita.

"I'm very pleased with how he ran," said Jimmy Barnes of Defunded. Barnes is the chief assistant for trainer Bob Baffert, who was at Oaklawn Park watching 3-year-old Arabian Knight win the $750,000 Southwest Stakes.

"He went through the paddock well, went to gate well and pretty much did what he needed to do," Barnes said. "He just got beat by a good horse. Art Collector is a seasoned veteran. Other than winning the race, second is good enough for me."

The 1⅛-mile race was thought to be a crowning sendoff for Cyberknife, the 2-1 favorite, who won two Grade 1 races last year. Yet he never fired Saturday and finished a disappointing sixth.

He is immediately headed to Spendthrift Farm in Lexington, Ky., where he will stand as a stallion.

"He broke well but they got away from him," trainer Brad Cox said. "It wasn't to be. It didn't work out."

A Southern California-based horse did win one of the three big races on Saturday. Queen Goddess, winner of the Robert J. Frankel and Santa Ana Stakes at Santa Anita, came from just off the pace to take the lead on the far turn and held on down the stretch to win the $500,000 Pegasus Filly and Mare Turf by 1½ lengths.

The Michael McCarthy trainee ran a lot farther than most of the horses in the 1 1/16-mile race.

She was parked three wide for most of the race and had enough left to hold off Shantisara. Queen Goddess paid $10.40 to win.

Atone won the 1⅛-mile $1-million Pegasus Turf Invitational with a seven-wide bid down the stretch to beat Ivar by three-quarters of a length. He paid $9.60 to win. One More Bid, who won the Mathis Mile on opening day at Santa Anita, finished a competitive fifth.

U.S. unwraps gems then ends up with a tie

Interim coach Hudson says he likes what he sees in his young players' debuts.

U.S. 0, COLOMBIA 0

By Kevin Baxter

Think of U.S. Soccer's January camp as a weeklong job fair, one in which two dozen players with various levels of experience were invited to Southern California to audition for a spot on the national team.

Except the only guy who came away guaranteed of employment was the coach.

Earlier this month Anthony Hudson, an assistant to head coach Gregg Berhalter the last two years, was asked to guide the team through its first two games of the World Cup cycle — the second being Saturday's scoreless draw with Colombia at Dignity Health Sports Park — while the federation conducted its standard review of the program and its manager.

That changed in the middle of camp when U.S. Soccer announced that sporting director Earnie Stewart and men's general manager Brian McBride, the men tasked first with reviewing Berhalter's performance and deciding whether to re-sign him, were leaving the federation. That put the whole process on hold and gave Hudson a new title: interim coach, through at least the summer.

"Obviously, there's been some changes," Hudson said.

That changed little for Hudson, however.

"My focus, until I'm told otherwise, I'm going to do my very best for the team, for the players," he said. "I am going to do all I can to help the players, help try to improve the team, help try to take the style of play forward and help the staff. I just want to, we just want to, keep improving things."

What he was asked to do over the last week was identify new talent from a young roster than included 13 players who have never played for the national team. He did that, giving a record 12 players their U.S. debuts in the two games and getting flashes of brilliance from many of them. Dual-national forwards Alejandro Zendejas and Brandon Vázquez and under-20 players Paxten Aaronson and Jalen Neal were among those who Hudson said shone brightest.

Marcio Jose Sanchez Associated Press

U.S. PLAYER Eryk Williamson, right, leaps to control the ball as Colombia's Yilmar Velásquez defends.

"Brandon Vázquez is someone that's done really, really well. He's someone that we would like to see more of," Hudson said. "Paxten's a high-potential young player. He has a lot of quality, he's a bright young player and we want to support him."

The Americans, playing a wide-open and entertaining — if ultimately scoreless game — Saturday before a sellout crowd of 27,000, saw their best three scoring chances all come in the first half. Two of them involved Aaronson, whose older brother Brenden played for the U.S. in last year's World Cup in Qatar.

Although Colombia's lightning-quick counterattack kept the U.S. stretched out all night, in the sixth minute Aaronson found himself alone on the left side of box. After taking a pass from Matthew Hoppe, he put a one-timer on goal but it wasn't struck well enough and Colombian keeper Alvaro Montero was able to make a diving, one-handed stop. Eight minutes later Aaronson, who had a relentless work rate, put a try from the center of the box into traffic in front of the goal, where it was deflected away by a Colombian defender.

The other promising try came late in the half when Hoppe rushed into the box on the end of a breakaway, then took the shot himself rather than sliding a pass across the front of the goal for teammate Paul Arriola, who was signaling wildly for the ball. Montero made the easy save, his second and final one on the night.

Vázquez, who scored the only goal in Wednesday's 2-1 loss to Serbia, almost got another in the final seconds of regulation time when he just missed getting on the end of a Kellyn Acosta free kick at the far post.

Colombia outshot the U.S. 12-5 but none of its tries was particularly troublesome, with U.S. keeper Sean Johnson, one of five World Cup holdovers on the roster, being called on to make just one save to earn the shutout. He got some help from Neal, who broke up Colombia's final scoring chance when he slid to disrupt a shot by Frank Fabra three minutes into stoppage time.

Even though the first U.S. training camp of the year ended without a win in multiple games for the first time since 2013, Hudson was eager to call it a success.

"The objective of this camp was to look for new players," he said. "We achieved our objective."

Cesar Landeros UC Irvine athletics

UC IRVINE'S Jenika Davis is undergoing chemotherapy after being diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

Game on for new type of match

Davis and UC Irvine teammates searching for a blood stem cell donor

By Thuc Nhi Nguyen

> 'You're thinking about her every day. ... We referenced her a little bit before games to be able to remember what she's going through and how can we play in a way that would inspire her.'
>
> — UC Irvine coach Scott Juniper

It didn't take Scott Juniper long to know he wanted Jenika Davis on his team. The UC Irvine women's soccer coach saw an exciting, attacking player who never shied away from defenders. She charged forward, powering through any anxiety, and welcomed the challenge of beating the last player.

Davis now is using that same fearlessness in a much tougher battle.

The freshman midfielder-forward was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia in October and has begun chemotherapy treatments. Juniper said doctors have reported that Davis is responding well to treatments, but she needs a blood stem cell transplant to conquer the disease.

Davis' teammates are leading a charge to find a donor by partnering with Be the Match, an organization that pairs patients battling blood cancers with donors for bone marrow or blood stem cell transplants. The women's soccer team helped register 97 potential donors during a recent UC Irvine men's basketball game, explaining to fans that it would take only five minutes to potentially save a life.

Potential donors swabbed the inside of their cheek, and samples were sent to a lab for testing. Be the Match reaches out to registered donors if their sample is determined to be a genetic match for one of the roughly 12,000 patients like Davis looking for a donor.

"Everyone I went up to was so cooperative and so empathetic," said freshman midfielder Mirayah Villalpando, one of Davis' three roommates. "A lot of people were just asking a little bit more about her story."

When Villalpando met Davis on their official visit to Irvine, she knew they would be fast friends. Positive energy radiated off the 5-foot-7 winger. She cracked jokes that left teammates and coaches doubled over.

So when roommates started noticing that Davis barely had the energy to get out of bed during preseason training, they grew concerned. The house jokester had fallen silent. She wasn't eating as much. She told her roommates she didn't feel sick, but just didn't feel like herself.

The training was expected to test athletes physically, but Juniper noticed Davis wasn't bouncing back as expected. Villalpando wondered whether it was her mental health.

Trainers noticed bruising that couldn't be explained through soccer and brought Davis in for blood work. The tests confirmed an AML diagnosis.

"It was devastating when we officially found out about it," Villalpando said. "We were all just in shock and the whole team as well."

After learning of Davis' diagnosis, the athletic department dispatched doctors and counselors to meet with the team. It was a hard discussion at first, Juniper said. But learning about the situation empowered Davis' teammates to help, and they were connected to Be the Match, which already had a relationship with UCI.

People in good health from ages 18 to 40 are eligible to join the registry by signing up, receiving a swab kit in the mail and returning it. If identified as a potential match, donors usually are asked to donate blood stem cells through a process similar to donating platelets. Only about 15% of donors, typically those matched with pediatric patients, will be asked to donate bone marrow.

Chris Chen, an account manager for Be the Match, said there are about 9 million people in the national registry, and it is the most diverse registry in the world, but it still is not enough. According to Be the Match, patients of Black or African American descent have only a 29% chance of finding a match, while Asian or Pacific Islander patients have a 47% chance compared with the 79% chance of a white patient.

Because the matching process for blood stem cells and bone marrow is dependent on tissue type, not simply blood type, growing the number of donors of different and mixed ethnicities is critical in finding potential matches.

"The more people that join the registry, the better odds our patients can have in finding a matching donor," Chen said.

While Davis, who is Filipino and Native American, awaits a match, she is undergoing chemotherapy treatments. After playing in five games and notching an assist in a victory against San Jose State on Sept. 2, Davis watched from afar as her teammates rebounded from a sixth-place finish in the Big West to claim Irvine's second consecutive conference tournament title. The Anteaters matched the best postseason finish in program history by advancing to the third round of the NCAA tournament, upsetting USC in the first round and defeating Brown on penalty kicks in the second.

Players returned to their phones after big games with long text message strings of Davis' minute-by-minute analysis. The team hung Davis' No. 39 jersey on the bench, and teammates wrote "JD 39" on the tape around their wrists.

"You're thinking about her every day," Juniper said. "This is genuinely life threatening so it doesn't get any more significant than that. ... We referenced her a little bit before games to be able to remember what she's going through and how can we play in a way that would inspire her or how can we be equally inspired by the strength and the fight that she was showing."

Villalpando and her other roommates recently visited the hospital on Davis' birthday. They painted, ate snacks and told jokes like old times. Villalpando said they rarely discuss Davis' treatments, but when the subject comes up, the fearless winger flashes the same fight coaches and teammates remember from the field.

"I'm going to be fine," she tells her teammates. "I know I'm going to survive this."

To register at Be the Match go to my.bethematch.org/-teamjenika or text TeamJenika to 61474.

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Parker says she will sign with champion Aces

WIRE REPORTS

Former two-time most valuable player **Candace Parker** announced on social media Saturday that she would sign with the defending champion Las Vegas Aces.

Parker spent the last two seasons playing for her hometown Sky, leading Chicago to the WNBA championship in 2021. She also won the 2016 title playing for the Sparks.

She posted on Instagram that Chicago would always be her home, but "my family's home is on the west coast.

"To play for a championship close to home is the perfect situation for us. I'm looking forward to continuing the journey this summer in Las Vegas."

The free-agent signing period begins Wednesday, and the Aces can't comment until then.

Joel Embiid won the battle of MVP candidates with 47 points and 18 rebounds as the host Philadelphia 76ers extended their winning streak to seven games with a 126-119 win over **Nikola Jokic** and the Denver Nuggets.

Jokic had 24 points, eight rebounds and nine assists for Denver.

ETC.

Shiffrin within one of record

American skier **Mikaela Shiffrin** dominated a slalom in the Czech Republic for her 85th career victory to move within one of the World Cup record set by Swedish great **Ingemar Stenmark** in the 1980s.

Shiffrin can match the best mark of 86 wins in another slalom Sunday.

Shiffrin had shared the women's record of 82 wins with former teammate **Lindsey Vonn** before winning back-to-back giant slaloms in Italy this week.

Marco Odermatt won a men's World Cup super-G in Italy in a triumphant return from his injury layoff.

Damar Hamlin released a video in which he said he's thankful for the outpouring of support and vowed to pay it back, marking the first time the Buffalo Bills safety spoke publicly since he went into cardiac arrest and needed to be resuscitated on the field in Cincinnati on Jan. 2. ... The Kansas City Chiefs activated tight end **Jody Fortson** from injured reserve and elevated wide receivers **Marcus Kemp** and **Ihmir Smith-Marsette** from the practice squad for Sunday night's AFC title game against the Cincinnati Bengals.

Noah K. Murray Associated Press

EX-SPARKS forward Candace Parker won a title with the Sky in 2021.

The National Women's Soccer League is close to expanding by three teams, which will be in Boston, Utah and the San Francisco area, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The women's pro league previously indicated it would add at least two teams by 2024. The Journal, citing unnamed sources, reported that the franchises in northern California and Utah are set to start play next year, with Boston to join at a later date.

Top-ranked **Rory McIlroy** and rival **Patrick Reed** were two shots off the lead at the halfway point of the Dubai Desert Classic after each shot two-under 70.

Richard Bland (67), **Thomas Pieters** (67) and amateur **Michael Thorbjornsen** (64) all reached 10-under overall at Emirates Golf Club for a share of the lead at the weather-impacted tournament, which will conclude Monday.

Artur Beterbiev successfully held his WBC, IBF and WBO light-heavyweight belts when he stopped English challenger **Anthony Yarde** in the eighth round in London.

Georgia athletic department officials said the vehicle involved in a crash that killed offensive lineman **Devin Willock** and employee **Chandler LeCroy** on Jan. 15 was to be used only for recruiting activities, not personal use.

The University of Georgia Athletic Assn. provided that information in a statement to the AP, saying personal use of the SUV was "strictly prohibited."

Willock and LeCroy, a 24-year-old who was driving the SUV, were killed in the accident hours following a parade and celebration of the Bulldogs' second consecutive national championship.

Madison Chock and **Evan Bates** successfully defended their ice dancing title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, scoring 137.85 in the free dance for a top-place total score of 229.75. **Alexa Knierim** and **Brandon Frazier** captured another national pairs gold with a spectacular free skate that scored them an overall season-best 227.97.

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions: S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	34	16	.680		7-3	N1
2. Memphis	31	18	.633	2½	5-5	S1
3. Sacramento	27	21	.563	6	7-3	P1
4. CLIPPERS	28	24	.538	7	7-3	P2
5. New Orleans	26	24	.520	8	2-8	S2
6. Minnesota	27	25	.519	8	7-3	N2
7. Dallas	26	25	.510	8½	3-7	S3
7. Golden State	25	24	.510	8½	5-5	P4
7. Phoenix	26	25	.510	8½	6-4	P3
10. Utah	26	26	.500	9	6-4	N3
11. Oklahoma City	24	25	.490	9½	7-3	N4
12. Portland	23	26	.469	10½	4-6	N5
13. LAKERS	23	27	.460	11	4-6	P5
14. San Antonio	14	36	.280	20	1-9	S4
15. Houston	12	38	.240	22	2-8	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	36	15	.706		7-3	A1
2. Philadelphia	32	16	.667	2½	9-1	A2
3. Milwaukee	32	17	.653	3	7-3	C1
4. Brooklyn	30	19	.612	5	4-6	A3
5. Cleveland	30	21	.588	6	4-6	C2
6. Miami	28	22	.560	7½	7-3	S1
7. New York	27	24	.529	9	5-5	A4
8. Atlanta	25	25	.500	10½	6-4	S2
9. Indiana	24	27	.471	12	1-9	C3
10. Chicago	23	26	.469	12	5-5	C4
10. Washington	23	26	.469	12	6-4	S3
12. Toronto	23	28	.451	13	5-5	A5
13. Orlando	19	31	.380	16½	4-6	S4
14. Charlotte	14	36	.280	21½	3-7	S5
15. Detroit	13	38	.255	23	2-8	C5

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Boston 125, LAKERS 121 (OT)	CLIPPERS 120, Atlanta 113
Philadelphia 126, Denver 119	Brooklyn 122, New York 115
Chicago 128, Orlando 109	Houston 117, Detroit 114
Minnesota 117, Sacramento 110	Phoenix 128, San Antonio 118
Washington 113, N. Orleans 103	Utah 108, Dallas 100
Toronto 123, Portland 105	

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at Cleveland	OFF	CLIPPERS	4 p.m.
Miami	6	at Charlotte	10 a.m.
at Memphis	7½	Indiana	3 p.m.
at Milwaukee	8½	New Orleans	5 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Sunday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Embiid, Philadelphia	35	388	353	1168	33.4
Doncic, Dallas	45	500	362	1485	33.0
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	38	415	329	1188	31.3
Tatum, Boston	47	477	355	1463	31.1
Gilgeous-Alexander, OKC	45	466	414	1391	30.9
Lillard, Portland	36	331	273	1084	30.1
James, LAKERS	39	450	186	1168	29.9
Durant, Brooklyn	39	410	267	1158	29.7
Mitchell, Cleveland	41	399	206	1159	28.3
Morant, Memphis	41	398	253	1118	27.3
Irving, Brooklyn	37	370	145	1006	27.2
Young, Atlanta	44	376	345	1192	27.1
Brown, Boston	44	441	186	1177	26.8
DeRozan, Chicago	45	424	317	1182	26.3
Jokic, Denver	42	401	216	1055	25.1
Siakam, Toronto	40	355	242	1005	25.1
Markkanen, Utah	46	383	231	1139	24.8

JOHN BAZEMORE Associated Press

CLIPPERS, from left, Paul George, Norman Powell and Kawhi Leonard surround Atlanta's John Collins in the second half. Leonard — who scored a game-high 32 points — credited the team's defensive play for sparking the Clippers to their fifth win in a row.

Clippers get defensive in victory

Leonard has season-best five three-pointers, but he credits team's play on other end as win streak extends.

CLIPPERS 120
ATLANTA 113

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Kawhi Leonard scored 32 points, including a season-high five three-pointers, Paul George added 23 points and the Clippers won their fifth straight game, a 120-113 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Saturday night.

"We limited them to 25% from three tonight, under 50% from the field, I think that's big-time for us right now on defense,“ Leonard said. "That was one of the things that got us in a slump. We shot the ball well tonight."

Trae Young had 12 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter for the Hawks, who whittled a 14-point deficit down to four on De'Andre Hunter's left corner three-pointer with 2:09 remaining. But they couldn't get any closer after George buried a baseline jumper and Nicolas Batum hit a right corner three-pointer with 49.3 seconds to go.

George knocked down two free throws at the 17.6-second mark to put the game out of reach.

"I think we're just taking the steps to grow as a team," George said. "We're sharing the ball. We're playing the right way. We're playing for one another, and I think our defense has been impactful. It's starting to affect games.

"I think when we went through a stretch where we weren't playing well, we were giving up a lot of points. I think we're starting to cut that down."

The Hawks dropped to 8-6 in January, including 6-3 in their last nine outings.

The Clippers used an 8-1 run early in the fourth to build an 11-point lead on Reggie Jackson's layup. Atlanta called timeout, but it made no difference as the Clippers went up by 12 on Norman Powell's left corner three-pointer with 9:13 remaining. A pair of free throws by Ivica Zubac and Zubac's putback dunk made it a game-high 14-point lead at the 5:22 mark.

"You've got two guys out there that are all-NBA type players," Young said. "It's easier said on how to stop those guys than just doing it.

"They played really good tonight. Kawhi did a really good job of scoring when he needed to and PG got everybody involved when he was getting in traps and stuff, but he was scoring early.

"Those guys played really well. You've got to give them credit."

The Hawks pulled within one midway through the third, but the lead swelled to 71-66 on a pair of three-pointers by Luke Kennard. Leonard followed with two three-pointers that made it 76-68, and the Clippers entered the fourth leading 84-81.

"I was able to get some open looks and if it's open, I'm going to shoot the ball," Leonard said. "It felt good."

Atlanta took the game's first double-digit lead at 41-30 on Dejounte Murray's 10-footer, but the Clippers went on a 26-8 run to go up 56-49 on Zubac's dunk late in the second. They didn't trail again for the rest of the game and led 58-53 at halftime.

"I think we limited them to one shot attempt and got the rebound, came back on the offensive end with pace and made shots," Leonard said. "We were able to control the game from there."

The Clippers have scored more that 100 points in 12 straight game and improved to 20-6 when leading after three quarters. A big factor against Atlanta was their 48.7% shooting on 39 three-point attempts. For Atlanta, Young went without a three-pointer for the third time in the last four games, and Atlanta dropped to 1-5 when he fails to connect beyond the arc.

The Clippers played without forwards Marcus Morris Sr. (rib contusion) and Robert Covington (personal reasons). Saturday's game was the first in a six-game road swing that next takes them to Cleveland.

CELTICS 125, LAKERS 121, OT

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown Jr.	26	1-7	0-0	1-4	1	2	2
James	44	15-30	5-6	1-9	8	2	41
Bryant	19	1-1	1-2	1-6	0	0	3
Beverley	36	5-10	1-2	1-5	5	4	15
Schroder	37	6-12	1-1	0-2	3	5	13
Davis	33	6-15	3-4	5-10	4	4	16
Westbrook	25	4-14	4-5	2-4	7	4	12
Hachimura	23	3-8	0-0	0-4	1	1	6
Walker IV	17	6-8	0-0	0-3	1	1	13
Totals		47-105	15-20	11-47	30	23	121

Shooting: Field goals, 44.8%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 12-42 (James 6-12, Beverley 4-7, Davis 1-3, Walker IV 1-3, Westbrook 0-3, Hachimura 0-4, Brown Jr. 0-5, Schroder 0-5). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 0 Turnovers: 12 (Westbrook 5, Davis 2, James 2, Schroder 2, Walker IV). Steals: 4 (Beverley 2, Walker IV, Westbrook). Technical Fouls: Schroder, 4:26 third

BOSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Tatum	47	8-25	11-12	2-11	4	3	30
Williams	38	3-6	1-2	0-9	0	6	9
Horford	37	2-6	2-2	1-2	3	1	7
Brown	38	13-23	9-11	1-9	3	5	37
White	35	5-8	2-2	1-5	2	0	14
Brogdon	39	8-15	7-8	1-6	4	4	26
Kornet	16	0-0	2-2	1-2	2	2	2
Pritchard	5	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Hauser	5	0-0	0-0	0-2	0	0	0
Totals		39-84	34-39	7-46	18	22	125

Shooting: Field goals, 46.4%; free throws, 87.2%

Three-point goals: 13-40 (Brogdon 3-7, Tatum 3-10, Williams 2-3, White 2-5, Brown 2-9, Horford 1-5, Pritchard 0-1). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 9 (Horford 3, Kornet 2, Brogdon, Brown, Tatum, White). Turnovers: 12 (Tatum 6, Brown 3, Brogdon 2, Williams). Steals: 8 (Brogdon 2, Tatum 2, Brown, Horford, Kornet, Williams). Technical Fouls: None.

LAKERS	27	27	27	24	16—121
Boston	28	20	33	24	20—125

A—19,156. T—2:47.

76ers 126, Nuggets 119

DENVER

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Gordon	29	8-10	2-4	1-5	3	1	18
Porter Jr.	28	7-11	1-1	0-6	0	2	20
Jokic	38	8-12	6-6	1-8	9	2	24
Caldwell-Pope	33	3-8	0-0	1-5	4	2	8
Murray	38	7-16	6-7	1-4	6	3	22
Brown	21	3-8	0-0	1-4	3	2	7
Hyland	21	4-10	2-2	0-1	2	1	11
Green	18	2-3	0-0	0-1	1	1	4
Nnaji	9	2-3	0-0	1-2	0	0	5
Totals		44-81	17-20	6-36	28	14	119

Shooting: Field goals, 54.3%; free throws, 85.0%

Three-point goals: 14-34 (Porter Jr. 5-9, Jokic 2-2, Caldwell-Pope 2-4, Murray 2-7, Nnaji 1-1, Brown 1-3, Hyland 1-6, Gordon 0-1, Green 0-1). Team Rebounds: 7. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Hyland 2, Jokic 2, Brown, Nnaji). Turnovers: 14 (Jokic 7, Murray 4, Brown 2, Green). Steals: 6 (Caldwell-Pope 3, Hyland, Murray, Nnaji). Technical Fouls: Nuggets, 11:10 second

PHILADELPHIA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Harris	32	6-10	0-0	0-6	2	2	14
Tucker	24	1-4	0-0	1-1	1	4	2
Embiid	37	18-31	7-10	6-18	5	2	47
Harden	35	5-10	4-6	1-4	13	1	17
Melton	22	4-8	2-2	1-2	2	3	13
Maxey	30	4-11	3-6	0-3	6	1	13
Niang	18	5-9	0-0	0-1	0	0	14
Milton	15	1-3	0-0	1-2	2	0	2
Thybulle	12	1-2	0-0	2-2	0	0	2
Harrell	10	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	2
Totals		46-89	16-24	12-39	31	15	126

Shooting: Field goals, 51.7%; free throws, 66.7%

Three-point goals: 18-35 (Embiid 4-7, Niang 4-7, Melton 3-5, Harden 3-6, Harris 2-4, Maxey 2-5, Tucker 0-1). Team Rebounds: 9. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Embiid 2). Turnovers: 11 (Embiid 6, Maxey 2, Harris, Melton, Niang). Steals: 10 (Embiid 3, Thybulle 3, Melton 2, Harris, Tucker). Technical Fouls: Tucker, 3:28 third

Denver	38	35	26	20—119	
Philadelphia	29	29	38	30—126	

A—21,255. T—2:19.

CLIPPERS 120, HAWKS 113

CLIPPERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
George	36	7-18	6-7	1-7	6	3	23
Leonard	38	12-20	3-3	1-8	4	1	32
Zubac	36	6-9	6-6	2-6	3	4	18
Kennard	20	4-7	0-0	0-3	0	2	11
Mann	35	1-3	0-0	1-7	6	2	2
Powell	24	4-11	0-1	1-4	2	1	10
Jackson	21	6-9	0-0	0-0	3	1	16
Batum	20	2-3	2-2	0-2	1	1	8
Diabate	4	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		42-80	17-19	6-37	25	15	120

Shooting: Field goals, 52.5%; free throws, 89.5%

Three-point goals: 19-39 (Leonard 5-10, Jackson 4-7, Kennard 3-3, George 3-9, Batum 2-3, Powell 2-6, Mann 0-1). Team Rebounds: 2. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Mann 2, Zubac 2, Leonard). Turnovers: 14 (Powell 4, Batum 2, George 2, Kennard 2, Leonard 2, Jackson, Mann). Steals: 5 (George, Jackson, Kennard, Leonard, Zubac). Technical Fouls: Clippers, 9:11 third

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Collins	33	7-13	1-2	1-5	0	3	16
Hunter	36	4-13	4-4	0-7	1	2	14
Capela	27	6-10	0-0	7-13	2	2	12
Murray	38	7-17	0-0	1-6	8	1	15
Young	36	10-21	11-14	2-5	10	2	31
Bogdanovic	24	4-8	0-0	0-0	3	1	9
Okongwu	20	3-5	0-0	4-9	0	4	6
Griffin	11	1-3	0-0	0-0	0	2	3
Johnson	7	1-2	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
A.Holiday	3	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	1	5
Totals		45-95	16-20	15-47	24	18	113

Shooting: Field goals, 47.4%; free throws, 80.0%

Three-point goals: 7-27 (Hunter 2-8, A.Holiday 1-2, Griffin 1-2, Collins 1-3, Bogdanovic 1-4, Murray 1-5, Johnson 0-1, Young 0-2). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 2 (Capela, Murray). Turnovers: 8 (Young 5, Bogdanovic, Johnson, Murray). Steals: 12 (Capela 2, Hunter 2, Murray 2, A.Holiday, Bogdanovic, Collins, Griffin, Okongwu, Young). Technical Fouls: Murray, 12:00 third.

CLIPPERS	22	36	26	36—120
Atlanta	28	25	28	32—113

A—18,448. T—2:11.

Suns 128, Spurs 118, OT

PHOENIX

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Craig	30	3-7	0-0	2-6	1	1	8
C.Johnson	32	5-12	2-2	1-4	2	3	15
Ayton	36	11-20	1-2	1-8	3	3	23
Bridges	40	10-18	4-5	1-1	4	3	25
Paul	39	12-20	6-6	0-7	11	1	31
Saric	23	1-8	0-0	6-13	1	4	2
D.Lee	20	3-8	1-2	1-4	1	0	7
Biyombo	16	3-4	2-2	3-6	3	2	8
S.Lee	13	2-3	2-3	2-3	3	0	7
Okogie	11	0-3	2-4	0-0	2	2	2
Totals		50-103	20-26	17-52	31	19	128

Shooting: Field goals, 48.5%; free throws, 76.9%

Three-point goals: 8-24 (C.Johnson 3-7, Craig 2-3, S.Lee 1-1, Bridges 1-4, Paul 1-4, Okogie 0-2, D.Lee 0-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Paul 2, Biyombo, Bridges, Craig, Saric). Turnovers: 9 (D.Lee 3, Ayton 2, C.Johnson, Okogie, Paul, Saric). Steals: 7 (Biyombo 2, Ayton, Bridges, Craig, D.Lee, Paul). Technical Fouls: None.

SAN ANTONIO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
K.Johnson	40	15-26	1-2	1-3	5	1	34
Sochan	39	11-25	5-5	3-8	5	4	30
Poeltl	33	4-8	0-0	4-13	6	3	8
Bates-Diop	32	5-8	3-3	1-4	4	0	14
Jones	27	3-10	1-2	0-3	4	2	7
S.Johnson	25	3-8	0-2	4-12	2	1	7
Branham	20	2-8	1-1	1-1	1	2	5
McDermott	20	4-10	0-0	0-1	1	4	10
Collins	19	1-4	1-2	2-6	4	2	3
Wesley	4	0-2	0-0	1-2	0	1	0
Totals		48-109	12-17	17-53	32	20	118

Shooting: Field goals, 44.0%; free throws, 70.6%

Three-point goals: 10-29 (Sochan 3-6, K.Johnson 3-9, McDermott 2-6, Bates-Diop 1-2, S.Johnson 1-3, Branham 0-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Poeltl 3, Collins). Turnovers: 13 (Poeltl 4, McDermott 3, Sochan 3, Bates-Diop, Branham, Wesley). Steals: 6 (Jones 3, Branham 2, McDermott). Technical Fouls: None.

Phoenix	33	22	32	23	18—128
San Antonio	26	22	28	34	8—118

A—18,354. T—2:27.

Timberwolves 117, Kings 110

SACRAMENTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barnes	36	1-7	10-11	1-3	1	1	13
Murray	32	3-8	0-0	2-4	0	4	8
Sabonis	39	9-13	5-8	4-10	5	4	23
Fox	34	10-24	8-10	0-3	6	5	29
Huerter	35	4-12	1-2	3-7	3	3	11
Monk	18	5-6	0-1	0-3	3	3	13
Mitchell	17	2-3	0-0	0-3	5	0	4
Lyles	12	0-2	2-2	0-2	0	1	2
Metu	8	3-5	1-2	0-1	0	0	7
Okpala	3	0-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Holmes	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		37-82	27-36	10-36	23	21	110

Shooting: Field goals, 45.1%; free throws, 75.0%

Three-point goals: 9-33 (Monk 3-4, Murray 2-6, Huerter 2-7, Barnes 1-4, Fox 1-7, Metu 0-1, Okpala 0-1, Sabonis 0-1, Lyles 0-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 0 Turnovers: 9 (Sabonis 3, Barnes 2, Huerter 2, Monk 2). Steals: 5 (Fox 2, Barnes, Lyles, Mitchell). Technical Fouls: None.

MINNESOTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anderson	26	2-4	4-5	1-4	5	4	9
McDaniels	35	6-12	0-0	2-8	2	5	15
Gobert	35	3-5	7-9	2-14	1	2	13
Edwards	37	14-21	1-2	2-10	6	2	34
Russell	37	8-14	2-2	1-2	6	4	25
Rivers	23	1-3	0-0	0-0	1	2	2
Nowell	18	2-8	0-0	1-4	4	2	4
Reid	13	6-9	1-1	0-2	0	4	14
Knight	7	0-1	1-2	0-0	0	0	1
Garza	4	0-3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Moore Jr.	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		42-80	16-21	9-44	25	26	117

Shooting: Field goals, 52.5%; free throws, 76.2%

Three-point goals: 17-37 (Russell 7-9, Edwards 5-7, McDaniels 3-7, Anderson 1-1, Reid 1-4, Knight 0-1, Garza 0-2, Rivers 0-2, Nowell 0-4). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 2 (Edwards, Gobert). Turnovers: 19 (Edwards 6, McDaniels 4, Russell 3, Gobert 2, Garza, Knight, Reid, Rivers). Steals: 5 (Edwards 2, Gobert, Rivers, Russell). Technical Fouls: coach Chris Finch, 7:10 second

Sacramento	21	38	22	29—110
Minnesota	29	28	33	27—117

A—17,136. T—2:18.

Bulls 128, Magic 109

CHICAGO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
DeRozan	38	11-14	5-6	0-2	8	4	32
Williams	36	7-11	0-0	0-6	2	2	16
Vucevic	39	11-18	2-2	4-13	6	4	26
Dosunmu	21	1-4	0-0	0-4	1	3	3
LaVine	36	11-18	7-7	0-3	1	1	32
Caruso	20	3-3	1-2	0-2	3	4	7
White	19	0-5	0-0	0-3	3	0	0
Jones Jr.	14	2-3	0-0	0-1	1	2	5
Dragic	12	2-5	1-2	0-4	5	2	7
Totals		48-81	16-19	4-38	30	22	128

Shooting: Field goals, 59.3%; free throws, 84.2%

Three-point goals: 16-35 (DeRozan 5-5, LaVine 3-7, Williams 2-4, Dragic 2-5, Vucevic 2-5, Jones Jr. 1-2, Dosunmu 1-4, White 0-3). Team Rebounds: 3. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 6 (Dosunmu 2, Vucevic 2, DeRozan, Williams). Turnovers: 12 (DeRozan 3, Vucevic 3, White 2, Caruso, Dragic, LaVine, Williams). Steals: 5 (Caruso 2, Jones Jr., White, Williams). Technical Fouls: DeRozan, 00:50 second.

ORLANDO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Banchero	24	3-14	3-4	2-7	3	2	9
F.Wagner	22	3-8	1-1	0-2	4	0	7
Carter Jr.	24	4-8	3-5	1-5	2	2	11
Fultz	21	3-7	1-2	0-1	3	3	7
G.Harris	19	3-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	7
Anthony	30	9-15	0-0	0-6	6	1	21
Suggs	26	4-6	1-3	2-4	5	5	11
Bol	23	2-3	0-0	0-5	2	0	4
M.Wagner	23	8-11	8-9	0-2	3	2	27
Schofield	14	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	2	0
Isaac	8	2-7	0-0	1-4	0	1	5
Totals		41-83	17-24	6-36	29	18	109

Shooting: Field goals, 49.4%; free throws, 70.8%

Three-point goals: 10-28 (M.Wagner 3-4, Anthony 3-5, Suggs 2-4, G.Harris 1-2, Isaac 1-4, Bol 0-1, Carter Jr. 0-2, F.Wagner 0-2, Banchero 0-4). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 0 Turnovers: 12 (Bol 2, Carter Jr. 2, Fultz 2, Suggs 2, Anthony, Banchero, F.Wagner, Schofield). Steals: 5 (Banchero, G.Harris, Isaac, M.Wagner, Suggs). Technical Fouls: None.

Chicago	25	35	35	33—128
Orlando	19	28	34	28—109

A—18,846. T—2:12.

Wizards 113, Pelicans 103

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Kispert	25	4-6	0-0	0-0	2	2	12
Kuzma	37	4-13	0-0	0-9	5	2	10
Gafford	29	8-11	5-8	5-12	2	2	21
Beal	32	5-17	4-5	1-4	5	1	16
Morris	27	2-7	6-6	0-3	0	1	10
Avdija	27	5-8	4-6	0-9	1	2	15
Wright	24	3-7	2-2	2-4	0	1	8
Nunn	17	5-13	0-0	0-2	0	2	12
Gibson	17	4-6	1-2	5-10	3	4	9
Totals		40-88	22-29	13-53	18	17	113

Shooting: Field goals, 45.5%; free throws, 75.9%

Three-point goals: 11-36 (Kispert 4-6, Beal 2-6, Nunn 2-7, Kuzma 2-9, Avdija 1-3, Gibson 0-1, Wright 0-1, Morris 0-3). Team Rebounds: 10. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 8 (Gafford 5, Beal, Gibson, Kuzma). Turnovers: 16 (Beal 5, Gafford 2, Gibson 2, Kuzma 2, Wright 2, Avdija, Kispert, Nunn). Steals: 5 (Avdija 2, Gafford, Kuzma, Morris). Technical Fouls: None.

NEW ORLEANS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Ingram	28	8-22	5-5	0-6	4	3	22
Murphy III	26	4-11	1-1	0-2	0	0	10
Valanciunas	8	0-3	0-0	0-3	0	3	0
Jones	30	3-5	2-2	0-4	1	3	8
McCollum	35	9-19	4-5	1-5	5	2	24
Nance Jr.	28	4-6	0-0	5-8	3	4	8
Alvarado	26	2-6	4-4	0-2	4	5	9
Hernangomez	20	2-6	1-2	1-7	0	2	5
Marshall	17	4-8	0-0	1-5	3	2	8
Graham	17	3-6	0-0	0-0	1	2	9
Totals		39-92	17-19	8-42	21	26	103

Shooting: Field goals, 42.4%; free throws, 89.5%

Three-point goals: 8-29 (Graham 3-6, McCollum 2-6, Alvarado 1-2, Ingram 1-5, Murphy III 1-5, Jones 0-1, Marshall 0-1, Nance Jr. 0-1, Valanciunas 0-2). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 8 (Hernangomez 3, Murphy III 2, Jones, McCollum, Nance Jr.). Turnovers: 10 (Ingram 6, Valanciunas 2, Graham, Marshall). Steals: 9 (Alvarado 2, Marshall 2, Graham, Hernangomez, Ingram, McCollum, Murphy III). Technical Fouls: None.

Washington	32	27	29	25—113
New Orleans	30	20	24	29—103

A—17,692. T—2:23.

Jazz 108, Mavericks 100

DALLAS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Finney-Smith	41	4-9	0-0	3-9	4	1	11
Hardaway Jr.	30	4-12	1-2	1-4	2	1	10
Powell	22	1-3	0-0	2-3	3	2	2
Dinwiddie	41	11-23	7-10	0-4	8	1	35
Green	37	4-12	2-2	1-3	5	4	11
Bullock	33	7-10	0-0	0-5	2	5	19
Bertans	13	1-5	0-0	0-1	1	1	3
Ntilikina	12	2-5	2-3	0-2	1	1	6
Hardy	5	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	2	3
Lawson	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Pinson	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wright IV	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		35-80	12-17	7-31	26	18	100

Shooting: Field goals, 43.8%; free throws, 70.6%

Three-point goals: 18-46 (Dinwiddie 6-11, Bullock 5-8, Finney-Smith 3-7, Hardy 1-1, Bertans 1-5, Green 1-6, Hardaway Jr. 1-7, Ntilikina 0-1). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 3 (Dinwiddie, Finney-Smith, Powell). Turnovers: 14 (Dinwiddie 3, Green 3, Finney-Smith 2, Ntilikina 2, Powell 2, Bertans, Hardy). Steals: 7 (Finney-Smith 2, Hardaway Jr. 2, Powell 2, Dinwiddie). Technical Fouls: Bertans, 11:17 fourth.

UTAH

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Markkanen	36	11-20	3-4	0-5	0	2	29
Olynyk	15	1-4	0-0	0-1	2	2	3
Kessler	25	6-7	2-4	2-11	2	1	14
Clarkson	30	4-13	5-6	3-7	3	1	14
Conley	33	2-8	0-0	2-5	11	3	4
Beasley	29	7-13	0-0	1-4	2	4	19
Vanderbilt	22	3-3	1-4	1-6	3	2	7
Sexton	19	3-7	4-4	1-2	1	2	12
Agbaji	17	1-3	2-2	2-3	0	4	4
Gay	10	1-4	0-0	1-5	2	2	2
Totals		39-82	17-24	13-49	26	23	108

Shooting: Field goals, 47.6%; free throws, 70.8%

Three-point goals: 13-36 (Beasley 5-11, Markkanen 4-8, Sexton 2-4, Olynyk 1-2, Clarkson 1-4, Gay 0-1, Agbaji 0-2, Conley 0-4). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Kessler 5, Markkanen). Turnovers: 16 (Clarkson 5, Agbaji 3, Conley 3, Olynyk 2, Beasley, Markkanen, Sexton). Steals: 9 (Conley 4, Clarkson 3, Markkanen, Sexton). Technical Fouls: Vanderbilt, 11:17 fourth.

Dallas	23	25	28	24—100
Utah	34	32	18	24—108

A—18,206. T—2:06.

Rockets 117, Pistons 114

HOUSTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Eason	30	7-15	1-1	4-10	1	1	16
Martin Jr.	26	7-11	1-2	3-13	1	3	15
Smith Jr.	33	2-12	3-4	2-12	2	2	7
Gordon	33	8-17	7-7	0-0	7	0	24
Nix	26	2-6	3-4	0-0	4	3	9
Tate	20	6-10	1-1	3-3	2	4	13
Garuba	19	3-3	0-0	1-6	1	1	8
Fernando	16	3-6	1-1	2-3	1	5	7
Christopher	16	4-8	2-4	1-1	1	0	11
Mathews	12	1-2	2-3	0-0	0	0	5
Washington Jr.	3	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	1	2
Totals		44-92	21-27	16-48	20	20	117

Shooting: Field goals, 47.8%; free throws, 77.8%

Three-point goals: 8-27 (Garuba 2-2, Nix 2-4, Mathews 1-2, Christopher 1-3, Eason 1-3, Gordon 1-8, Martin Jr. 0-1, Washington Jr. 0-1, Smith Jr. 0-3). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Smith Jr. 3, Martin Jr.). Turnovers: 17 (Gordon 4, Nix 3, Tate 3, Christopher 2, Eason 2, Fernando, Martin Jr., Washington Jr.). Steals: 8 (Eason 2, Gordon 2, Smith Jr. 2, Mathews, Nix). Technical Fouls: Rockets, 9:42 third

DETROIT

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bey	27	4-11	1-1	0-6	2	2	10
Bogdanovic	37	6-17	5-6	1-2	3	2	18
Duren	24	3-4	3-4	2-5	0	5	9
Burks	27	6-12	3-4	0-2	2	2	21
Ivey	27	4-9	6-8	2-7	5	3	16
Livers	25	2-5	0-0	0-1	0	2	5
Stewart	23	3-6	0-0	3-6	3	2	6
Hayes	20	3-8	1-2	0-0	7	4	8
Diallo	19	5-9	5-6	0-2	1	3	15
Knox II	6	2-2	0-0	0-5	0	0	6
Totals		38-83	24-31	8-36	23	25	114

Shooting: Field goals, 45.8%; free throws, 77.4%

Three-point goals: 14-38 (Burks 6-11, Knox II 2-2, Ivey 2-4, Hayes 1-3, Livers 1-4, Bogdanovic 1-6, Bey 1-7, Stewart 0-1). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 5 (Diallo, Duren, Ivey, Livers, Stewart). Turnovers: 16 (Ivey 6, Hayes 3, Diallo 2, Bey, Bogdanovic, Burks, Knox II, Stewart). Steals: 10 (Diallo 5, Duren 2, Bogdanovic, Hayes, Ivey). Technical Fouls: Diallo, 8:56 second.

Houston	27	32	24	34—117
Detroit	37	20	29	28—114

A—19,411. T—2:24.

Nets 122, Knicks 115

NEW YORK

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barrett	31	9-16	3-4	1-6	2	1	24
Randle	38	7-16	4-6	2-10	8	2	19
Sims	27	3-3	0-0	5-10	0	1	6
Brunson	37	10-19	6-6	2-3	4	2	26
Grimes	37	4-11	0-0	2-4	0	1	10
Quickley	27	6-11	0-1	1-6	3	2	16
Hartenstein	20	4-5	0-0	1-5	2	3	8
McBride	10	1-5	0-0	0-1	0	1	2
Toppin	9	1-2	2-2	0-0	0	1	4
Totals		45-88	15-19	14-45	19	14	115

Shooting: Field goals, 51.1%; free throws, 78.9%

Three-point goals: 10-28 (Quickley 4-7, Barrett 3-5, Grimes 2-7, Randle 1-6, McBride 0-1, Brunson 0-2). Team Rebounds: 6. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 4 (Hartenstein 2, Barrett, Sims). Turnovers: 10 (Randle 3, Quickley 2, Barrett, Brunson, Grimes, Hartenstein, Sims). Steals: 4 (Brunson, Quickley, Randle, Sims). Technical Fouls: Knicks, 00:55 second

BROOKLYN

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Harris	31	6-9	0-0	0-2	2	3	16
O'Neale	36	4-10	2-2	1-5	3	2	14
Claxton	34	6-6	1-4	2-12	6	2	13
Curry	32	5-9	2-2	1-1	3	2	14
Irving	41	12-27	3-6	2-6	9	4	32
Watanabe	17	3-4	0-0	0-2	2	0	9
Sharpe	13	3-6	0-0	3-3	1	1	6
Thomas	12	2-5	0-0	0-1	1	0	5
Mills	10	3-7	0-0	0-1	2	0	7
Sumner	9	2-4	0-0	0-2	2	3	6
Totals		46-87	8-14	9-35	31	17	122

Shooting: Field goals, 52.9%; free throws, 57.1%

Three-point goals: 22-40 (Irving 5-12, Harris 4-7, O'Neale 4-7, Watanabe 3-3, Sumner 2-2, Curry 2-3, Thomas 1-1, Mills 1-5). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (Claxton 3). Turnovers: 8 (Irving 3, Sumner 2, O'Neale, Sharpe, Thomas). Steals: 5 (Irving 2, Thomas 2, O'Neale). Technical Fouls: None.

New York	22	27	32	34—115
Brooklyn	28	34	26	34—122

A—18,100. T—2:13.

Raptors 123, Trail Blazers 105

TORONTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Barnes	37	7-12	4-4	4-10	7	1	18
Siakam	39	9-17	5-5	0-3	4	4	24
Achiuwa	33	11-16	4-4	3-13	0	3	27
Trent Jr.	35	7-16	1-1	0-1	1	1	19
VanVleet	41	4-13	1-1	3-6	9	4	11
Boucher	17	4-7	1-2	2-5	1	1	10
Hernangomez	11	1-2	0-0	0-2	0	1	3
Flynn	10	0-3	0-0	1-2	0	1	0
Young	9	3-4	1-1	1-1	1	2	7
Dowtin Jr.	1	0-0	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Harper Jr.	1	1-1	0-0	1-1	0	0	2
Koloko	1	1-1	0-0	0-1	0	0	2
Totals		48-92	17-18	15-45	24	18	123

Shooting: Field goals, 52.2%; free throws, 94.4%

Three-point goals: 10-30 (Trent Jr. 4-10, VanVleet 2-8, Achiuwa 1-2, Hernangomez 1-2, Siakam 1-2, Boucher 1-3, Barnes 0-1, Flynn 0-2). Team Rebounds: 3. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 3 (Achiuwa, VanVleet, Young). Turnovers: 6 (Achiuwa 2, VanVleet 2, Hernangomez, Siakam). Steals: 6 (VanVleet 4, Achiuwa 2). Technical Fouls: Achiuwa, 6:52 third

PORTLAND

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Grant	40	9-19	7-9	0-8	3	2	26
Little	29	3-6	0-0	0-3	2	0	8
Eubanks	22	3-6	1-2	1-3	1	3	7
Lillard	36	10-20	8-9	1-4	3	4	30
Simons	40	7-12	0-0	1-5	4	4	14
Watford	25	3-4	0-0	0-3	2	2	6
Sharpe	19	2-4	2-3	0-1	0	0	6
Payton II	16	1-1	0-0	0-0	3	1	3
Walker	5	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Butler Jr.	1	0-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Johnson	1	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Totals		40-76	18-23	3-27	18	16	105

Shooting: Field goals, 52.6%; free throws, 78.3%

Three-point goals: 7-24 (Little 2-4, Lillard 2-9, Johnson 1-1, Payton II 1-1, Grant 1-4, Butler Jr. 0-1, Sharpe 0-2, Simons 0-2). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Eubanks 2, Grant 2, Little, Sharpe). Turnovers: 11 (Lillard 4, Simons 3, Eubanks 2, Grant, Little). Steals: 3 (Eubanks, Grant, Sharpe). Technical Fouls: Eubanks, 6:52 third

Toronto	37	26	25	35—123
Portland	14	30	39	22—105

A—19,393. T—2:07.

STATS

Through Friday

LAKERS	PPG	RPG	APG
James	29.9	8.5	7.0
Davis	27.2	12.1	2.6
Westbrook	15.8	6.3	7.5
Walker	14.7	2.3	1.4
Bryant	12.8	7.2	.8
Schroder	12.3	2.6	3.8
Hachimura	12.0	6.0	1.0
Reaves	10.8	3.1	2.2
T.Brown	6.8	3.9	.9
Nunn	6.7	1.4	.9
Gabriel	6.4	4.0	.5
Beverley	6.2	3.2	2.4

CLIPPERS	PPG	RPG	APG
George	23.5	6.0	5.3
Leonard	20.9	6.1	3.9
Powell	16.5	3.0	1.7
Morris	12.9	4.4	1.8
Wall	11.4	2.7	5.2
Jackson	11.2	2.3	3.6
Zubac	10.1	10.3	1.0
Mann	8.7	3.6	2.0
Kennard	8.6	2.5	1.2
Batum	6.3	4.3	1.5
Covington	5.7	4.0	1.3
Boston	5.4	1.4	.9
Brown	4.3	3.7	.1

NICK COZA For The Times

JAZZ GARDNER, a 7-foot Hacienda Heights Los Altos transfer who can play on the perimeter, finished with 15 points to help the Wildcats top Bishop O'Connell (Virginia) 78-68 at Mater Dei in Santa Ana.

West Ranch pulls away late

Wildcats improve to 25-1 thanks to a fourth-quarter flurry at Nike Extravaganza.

WEST RANCH 78
BISH. O'CONNELL 68

By Luca Evans

The ball changed area codes in a blink, a team that's tried to slow the pace turning supersonic.

With the Santa Clarita West Ranch Wildcats surging in the fourth quarter Saturday, putting the finishing touches on a 78-68 win over Bishop O'Connell of Virginia, point guard Darrell Morris poked the ball free and skidded across the floor for the ball. In one motion, the 5-foot-9 guard passed the ball to senior Jaqari Miles, who got his fingertips on it before flinging a pass to forward Andrew Meadow.

Rim-rattling dunk.

"We have the most versatility, I think," Meadow said, "out of any team."

It didn't look like this was going to work at the beginning of the season. West Ranch, which had never made it to the Open Division, was suddenly working with an abundance of talent: four-year senior stalwart Meadow, outside shooter Miles, junior wing James Evans — and 7-foot Hacienda Heights Los Altos transfer Jazz Gardner. At least six players on the roster could create their own shot, and suddenly, a hotly coveted center got thrown into the mix.

In an October preseason tournament in Vegas, the offense was scattershot. Gardner looked uncertain, his shot not falling.

Building chemistry, Meadow said, was "the hardest thing we've ever done."

Heading into the playoffs, though, the pieces are clicking. The Wildcats are 25-1 with the win over O'Connell at Santa Ana Mater Dei's Nike Extravaganza.

It started with coach Jeff Bryant, who entered the season believing he had to adapt a fast-paced, five-out offense from seasons past. Gardner presented an opportunity: a big who could play in the post and perimeter, who could facilitate from anywhere on the court. The Wildcats needed ball movement, player movement. Not constantly hunting for quick shots in transition.

"I don't think that is a recipe to win a championship, especially in the Open Division," Bryant said.

Three games into the season, heading into a matchup with similarly talented Sherman Oaks Notre Dame, Bryant explained what he needed from each of his players. Gardner and Meadow would be the fulcrums. They'd run plays for Miles. Evans and senior Isaiah Fields would be slashers and shooters. Morris would run the show.

"It changed the way our season was going from that day on," Bryant said.

It's created magic like that fourth-quarter sequence against O'Connell. Magic like Gardner playing from the perimeter and feeding the shorter Meadow in the post. Miles finished with 23 points, Meadow with 20 and Gardner 15 against O'Connell.

"It's a combination of skill and size between the both of us that can create a lot of mismatches," Meadow said of him and Gardner. "Either of us can be on the wing, either of us can be on the block."

"We take turns, I guess you could say," Gardner said with a grin.

Meadow is the epicenter. He's been a Santa Clarita Valley kid since elementary school, staying at West Ranch for four years. The program, Bryant said, knew it would attract talent because of Meadow.

"They want to win for themselves, but they also want to win for Andrew ... he's one of those kids you want to go to war for," Bryant said.

Nike Extravaganza standouts

Notre Dame (19-8) beat St. Augustine, one of the best teams in San Diego, 84-72. Oak Hill (Va.) transfer Mercy Miller took over late, hitting multiple threes to finish with 39 points.

Studio City Harvard-Westlake (26-1) continued rolling with a 63-42 win over Concord De La Salle, the game all but over after Brady Dunlap led the way with 10 fourth-quarter points.

Lakers come up short in Boston

[**Lakers,** from D1]
the first overtime of a two-overtime loss to Dallas. The Lakers also should've been granted a potential game-tying free throw when Kendrick Nunn made a three against Sacramento on Jan. 18 with less than 10 seconds left in the game.

"It's been building," James said after the game. "Because you guys seen some of the games we've lost this year with late-game missed calls. We had an opportunity to literally win the game. I had the second one in the last few weeks for myself — against Dallas, had an opportunity to win on a foul call. K-Nunn the other day had an opportunity to tie the game if the four-point play is called. I don't understand.

"I don't understand what we're doing. And I watch basketball every single day. I watch games every single day. And I don't see it happening to nobody else. It's just weird."

James finished with 41 points, nine rebounds and eight assists. He attempted six free throws. Tatum and Jaylen Brown took a total of 23 for Boston.

"The best player on earth can't get a call," Ham said. "It's amazing."

Brown tied the score before the James no-call on an and-one putback that the Lakers also criticized, saying they felt guard Patrick Beverley got all ball and that the whistle came late.

Beverley, in particular, had a huge impact, helping harass Tatum before hitting a go-ahead three and a go-ahead dunk in the final minute of regulation.

But the Lakers didn't do enough to keep a no-call from mattering.

In his second game back, Davis struggled, scoring 16 points without a steal or a block while finishing a team-low minus-16.

Beverley, who was set to be the hero, missed a free throw in the final minute of the fourth that kept the Lakers from icing the game — much like misses from the line cost them wins against Philadelphia and Boston earlier in the season.

Then after regulation, Beverley took a camera and showed an image of James getting fouled to to an official, instantly getting called for a technical while giving the Celtics a free point at the line to start overtime.

"There's a bunch we can do better," Ham said.

And there still are the questions about Russell Westbrook. Against the Celtics, Westbrook struggled — the crowd egging him on to shoot. He started 0 for 6 before scoring his first points from the free-throw line and spent the entire fourth quarter on the bench.

But in overtime, Westbrook sparked the Lakers with a tip-in while drawing a foul. He made the free throw, plus two more after drawing a flagrant foul.

Then, he missed a corner three and, on the next possession, a reverse layup. He declined to speak to reporters after the game.

The Lakers (23-27) got closer to full health, guard Lonnie Walker IV coming back to score 13 points off the bench in his most-efficient shooting game of the year.

James scored 40 or more for the fifth time since turning 38 on Dec. 30.

But they were left to air their gripes after the game.

One thing Ham didn't want was another retroactive apology.

"I don't want to see another two-minute report," he said. "They can save that. It does no one any good and we just have to focus on how we can get better in different stretches of the game, how we make sure we're doing what we can control."

MICHAEL DWYER Associated Press

LeBRON JAMES had a big game versus Jaylen Brown and Boston, with 41 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, but didn't get a key call at the end of regulation.

LeBron watch

LeBron James' pursuit of the all-time NBA scoring record, held by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar:

- Abdul-Jabbar's points: **38,387**
- James' points: **38,271**
  (Through Saturday)
- James' 2022-23 average: **30.2**
- Projected game to break record: **Feb. 4 at New Orleans**

U.S. uses sports diplomacy in bid to foster cooperation

[**Diplomacy,** from D1]
"Sports diplomacy," said Ashleigh Huffman, director of the sports diplomacy division for the last 15 months, "is the best-kept secret in the State Department."

Although the program, which is part of the educational and cultural affairs department headed by Lee Satterfield, the assistant secretary of State, was formally established following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the concept of using sports to further diplomatic aims is hardly new. President Nixon's groundbreaking trip to Beijing in 1972, for example, would not have happened if not for an exchange of table tennis players between the U.S. and China a year earlier, which led to a thaw in relations between the two countries.

And the U.S. isn't the only country that believes in the power of sports. Australia, Spain and Britain all have government ministers or civil-service actors who are doing that work while the European Union has an entire strategy devoted to sports diplomacy.

"Sport is that universal language, right? No matter where you go, you can roll out a ball and it just transcends differences," said Huffman, 39, who was among the featured speakers at the espnW: Women + Sports Summit in Ojai in November. "The programs, the exchanges, connect us through sport, tap into this shared universal language."

But sports exchanges aren't always used benignly. Sometimes they hide far more nefarious aims.

Four days after hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics — which were founded to promote peace through sports — Russia invaded Crimea. Nazi Germany staged the 1936 Summer and Winter Games three years before its tanks rolled into Poland. More recently, Qatar held more than 600 international sporting events, including the world track championships, a Formula One Grand Prix, and international bowling, squash, table tennis and equestrian events, in the decade before last year's World Cup in an effort, critics say, to use sports to hide the stain of the country's abysmal human rights record. That's the same thing critics say Saudi Arabia is doing with its LIV golf tour, a practice that has become so prevalent it now has a name: sportswashing.

The U.S. sports diplomacy program engages with embassies and consulates overseas to highlight strategic foreign-policy goals for which sports could be a good diplomatic tool. Say a surfing program in Barbados approaches the embassy in Bridgetown for support. Diplomats there might then settle on climate change as a related U.S. government priority and Huffman and her staff of five contact the World Surf League, the International Surfing Assn. or some other group for help in putting a program together that links surfing with climate change.

Huffman, who played college basketball at Eastern Kentucky, said she has engaged with virtually every sport, including skateboarding, breakdancing, mountain climbing and baseball, although basketball and soccer are the most-requested ones and U.S. national team star Megan Rapinoe is the most-requested athlete.

"One industry where the United States is still seen as a superpower is the sports sphere," she said. "When we talk about American values and we're talking about freedom and justice and equality, if that's really what we stand for, how can we look at places that are less free, less equal and say we don't have some kind of responsibility to share what we've been given? That we don't have some kind of responsibility to equip and empower locals to change their communities if they need to?

"Where there's privilege there is responsibility. And we have a tremendous amount of privilege in the United States."

At home, the State Department works with the Center for Sport, Peace and Society at the University of Tennessee Knoxville, which Huffman helped found, to implement the espnW Global Sports Mentoring Program. That five-week exchange program links U.S. mentors and sports-based organizations with leaders representing grassroots sports programs from more than 72 countries.

The most recent class of 15, which arrived last fall, included delegates from Kosovo, Croatia, India, Zanzibar and Egypt.

"They're the experts in their community. We can't copy and paste what we might think will work there because we don't know the context. Our role is to come alongside them and help them and support them," said Carolyn Spellings, the chief of evaluation, research and accountability at the Center for Sport and a clinical assistant professor at the University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Spellings, like Huffman, is convinced sports can also be effective in more typical diplomatic situations such as conflict resolution because it breaks down barriers, making negotiation and compromise easier.

"It humanizes the other person," she said. "It kind of strips down those labels that you might have for the other."

> 'Sport is that universal language, right? No matter where you go, you can roll out a ball and it just transcends differences.'
>
> — Ashleigh Huffman,
> director of the U.S. sports diplomacy division

Sports also reinforces the importance of rules, which can aid diplomacy.

"There are rules in a society that you have to follow. Sport has the opportunity to reach those things," said Spellings, who grew up playing basketball and soccer. "As the competition gets heavier the consequences can be more severe than a 7-year-old playing soccer. But sports is unique in that way.

"Sport is not the magic solution to everything. But it can be helpful to start to solve these problems."

Take Title IX, a uniquely American piece of legislation that prohibited sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that received funding from the federal government. Although the language of the law was not limited to sports, that's where its effect has been most widely felt, opening opportunities to tens of millions of female athletes.

The sports diplomacy program has tried to use that as an example of how small change can have a big effect.

"We're taking these lessons from Title IX and applying it in Uganda and Brazil and the Philippines and it's making a real difference," Huffman said. "Sports is a low-cost, high-impact tool. It really changes the life of people and then that person can change the life of others."

She speaks from experience. Basketball helped pay for her education and since getting her doctorate, she's gone to three dozen countries to coach young girls, women and refugees, teaching lessons that go well beyond the triangle offense and the half-court press.

"If we can come together on the field and athlete [or] teammate can be our first identity, then all of these other identities can kind of become secondary and you can actually have a conversation," said Huffman, who wrote her masters thesis on sport in the Israeli-Palestinian context. "I see that it works. I know that it works."

UCLA shows some gains despite deficit

Bruins had $28 million in debt in 2022 fiscal year, down from 2021's record $62.5 million.

By Ben Bolch

When UCLA welcomed back fans amid the waning pandemic, it also hailed an accompanying benefit.

Revenue. Lots of it.

Profits from ticket sales and media rights fees related to schedules returning much closer to normal helped the Bruins more than halve the athletic department deficit from the previous fiscal year.

UCLA's debt of $28.045 million during the 2022 fiscal year was less than half the record $62.5 million from 2021, though it still left the athletic department facing a hefty four-year shortfall of $130.8 million roughly 1½ years before it can tap a spigot of cash from the Big Ten Conference.

That deficit will drop by more than half after a judge last summer awarded UCLA a $67.5-million settlement as part of its lawsuit against Under Armour for unilaterally terminating its record apparel agreement with the school.

That lump sum will temporarily offset the Bruins' losses from a deal that provided $9 million a year in cash. UCLA's replacement deal with Nike and Jordan Brand provides the school with $500,000 in cash annually on top of its allotment of athletic apparel.

UCLA's $17.4 million in ticket revenue during the most recent fiscal year was up from zero the previous year, and the $27.7 million in media rights fees was nearly double the $14.4 million from the 2021 fiscal year.

There remained some constraints that limited revenue opportunities. Three basketball games were canceled and three others inside Pauley Pavilion were limited to players' families amid a winter surge in COVID-19 cases. The Rose Bowl required proof of vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of kickoff, probably keeping some fans away.

UCLA also paid $1.05 million in expenses for the Holiday Bowl while receiving zero revenue after backing out of the game hours before kickoff because of a rash of positive coronavirus tests among players.

> 'While we work to increase revenue and decrease expenses, we provide ... a world-class experience.'
>
> — Scott Markley, UCLA athletic department spokesman

"The severe impact of the pandemic continued to be felt at collegiate athletic departments across the nation in 2021-2022, including the cancellation of games, an inability to host fans, significant losses of ticket sales revenue, media rights, sponsorships and contributions," UCLA athletic department spokesman Scott Markley said. "While we work to increase revenue and decrease expenses, we continue to provide our student-athletes and fans with a world-class experience."

Help is on the way. UCLA is expected to bring in between $65 million and $75 million per year in media rights revenue after joining the Big Ten in August 2024, though that jackpot won't be reflected in fiscal budgets for a few years. Additional revenue from expected appearances by Big Ten teams in the College Football Playoff and NCAA tournament should also significantly boost the Bruins' bottom line.

Slightly offsetting the increased revenue will be the so-called Berkeley Tax imposed by the University of California regents that's expected to be an annual payment of $2 million to $10 million to California as a result of UCLA leaving the Pac-12. The Bruins have also committed to spending an additional $12.2 million per year for travel, academic support, nutrition and mental health services as part of their move to a conference that stretches from coast to coast.

Some of UCLA's budgetary challenges are a result of an infrastructure that can seem to work against it; the Bruins received a combined $2.57 million in student fees and direct institutional support as opposed to the $31.3 million that Cal received in those categories (minus a $2.2-million deduction for transfers to the school). That mass infusion of cash left the Golden Bears' athletic department with a budgetary surplus of $3.7 million.

UCLA's athletic department revenue is also restricted by an agreement that requires it to pay a usage fee for games at Pauley Pavilion while receiving just a small percentage of concession and merchandise sales. The Bruins also do not receive any sponsorship sales at the Rose Bowl while getting just a trickle of the sales from parking, concessions, merchandise and premium seating revenue generated by football games at the stadium.

Where is all of UCLA's money going? The school paid a combined $49.7 million in salaries for coaches and support staff plus $16.1 million in athletic student aid. Travel expenses totaled $7 million and football meals came in at $3.2 million versus $2.15 million for the previous fiscal year. The Bruins also paid $10 million in debt service plus leasing and rental fees on athletic facilities.

Sagging attendance continued to limit football ticket sales, one of the biggest revenue generators for any athletic department. UCLA averaged 45,818 fans for games at the Rose Bowl in 2021, the third-lowest figure in the four decades it has called the stadium home.

That led to just $10.6 million in football ticket sales, down from $20 million as recently as 2014 when the Bruins were setting attendance records under coach Jim Mora.

Average football home attendance dipped to 41,593 in 2022, but a record eight games at the Rose Bowl should provide a revenue boost.

For the Bruins, the move to the Big Ten can't get here soon enough.

PAC-12

Arizona rolls thanks to second-half surge

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Azuolas Tubelis had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Oumar Ballo added 21 points and 12 rebounds, and No. 6 Arizona used a big second-half run to pull away for a 95-72 win over Washington on Saturday.

The Wildcats (19-3, 8-3 Pac-12) won their fourth in a row and picked up their first road sweep in conference play this season. Arizona also won for the eighth time in its last nine trips to Seattle, each of the last three victories by 20 points or more.

Tubelis topped 20 points for the first time in five games and his rebound putback while being fouled with 4:29 remaining gave the Wildcats a 78-63 lead and sent Washington fans headed for the exits.

Kerr Kriisa added 18 points, hitting six three-pointers, and Courtney Ramey scored 14.

Keion Brooks Jr. led Washington with 25 points and Keyon Menifield added 21. But the Huskies (13-10, 5-7) suffered from too many scoring droughts and didn't have an answer for Arizona's 19-1 run in the early stages of the second half.

Arizona's scoring run was a wave of contributions, but was punctuated by key three-pointers. Tubelis and Ballo scored baskets on the interior, and it was a pair of threes from Kriisa and Ramey's first made basket of the game — also a three — that helped the Wildcats push the lead to 53-44 with 13:33 remaining.

After a Washington timeout, the Huskies committed a turnover and Kriisa and Ramey again connected from deep. Tubelis finally capped the run with a layup, giving the Wildcats a 61-45 lead with 11:25 remaining.

at Washington State 75, Arizona State 58: Andrej Jakimovski scored a career-high 22 points, Justin Powell added a season-high 20 and Mouhamed Gueye had his second consecutive double-double to help the Cougars end a three-game skid.

at Oregon 68, Utah 56: Jermaine Couisnard scored 18 points and the Ducks beat the Utes for their 11th consecutive win in the series.

at Stanford 75, California 46: Maxime Raynaud scored 15 points, Harrison Ingram had 14 and the Cardinal rolled to their fourth win in a row.

at Oregon State 60, Colorado 52: Glenn Taylor Jr. had 14 points and 12 rebounds as the Beavers pulled away in the second half.

PAC-12 STANDINGS

	Conf.		Overall	
TEAM	W	L	W	L
UCLA	8	2	17	4
Arizona	8	3	19	3
USC	7	3	15	6
Utah	8	4	15	8
Oregon	7	4	13	9
Arizona State	6	5	15	7
Washington	5	7	13	10
Washington State	5	7	10	13
Colorado	4	8	12	11
Stanford	3	7	9	12
Oregon State	3	8	9	13
California	2	8	3	18

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Arizona 95, Washington 72
Washington State 75, Arizona State 58
Oregon 68, Utah 56
Stanford 75, California 46
Oregon Statet 60, Colorado 52

THURSDAY'S GAMES

Washington at UCLA, 6 p.m.
Washington State at USC, 8 p.m.
Stanford at Utah, 5 p.m.
Oregon State at Arizxona State, 5 p.m.
California at Colorado, 7 p.m.
Oregon at Arizona, 7:30 p.m.

SOUTHLAND

MEN

at Long Beach State 75, UC Davis 72: Marcus Tsohonis scored 21 points as Long Beach State won for the fourth game in a row. Tsohonis had six rebounds for Long Beach, while Lassina Traore scored 15 points and had 15 rebounds.

at UC Riverside 72, UC San Diego 65: Zyon Pullin scored 23 points as the Highlanders won for the sixth time in seven games. Lachlan Olbrich had 14 points and six rebounds. Francis Nwaokorie led San Diego with 16 points.

at Texas Rio Grand Valley 64, California Baptist 58: Will Johnston scored 13 points to lead the Vaqueros. Taran Armstrong of California Baptist led all scorers with 19 points.

at UC Irvine 81, Cal State Northridge 56: The Anteaters shot 50% from the field in their rout of the Matadors. Devin Tillis scored 18 points for Irvine, Dawson Baker had 12 ,while Dean Keeler and Andre Henry came off the bench to score 11 each. Northridge's Atin Wright led all scorers with 19 points.

Cal State Fullerton 65, at Cal Poly 36: The Titans were sparked by three players in double figures — Max Jones (16 points), Jalen Harris (13) and Latrell Wrightsell Jr. (10). The Mustangs were led by Brantly Stevenson's 13 points.

at Loyola Marymount 84, Pepperdine 70: Cam Shelton scored 26 points along with seven assists and Justin Ahrens scored 18 points to lead the Lions. Maxwell Lewis' 21 points led the Waves, who dropped to 0-8 in conference play.

WOMEN TODAY

UCLA at Utah	11 a.m.
USC at Colorado	11 a.m.

GARETT FISBECK Associated Press

GRANT SHERFIELD of Oklahoma scored a season-high 30 points against Rylan Griffen and No. 2 Alabama.

TOP 25

Sooners up to challenge of SEC

ASSOCIATED PRESS

With Oklahoma joining the Southeastern Conference in 2025, Sooners fans used the SEC/Big 12 Challenge to show Alabama the energy they plan to bring.

After taunting the second-ranked Crimson Tide with chants of "S-E-C" and "o-ver-ra-ted" in the second half, the fans stormed the court — a rare occurrence at Oklahoma. Grant Sherfield scored a season-high 30 points, and the Sooners beat Alabama 93-69 on Saturday.

It was the kind of moment second-year coach Porter Moser envisioned when he left Loyola of Chicago for Oklahoma.

"The crowd was unbelievable," he said. "I sat there when the crowd rushed the floor — you know, my younger self might have ran out in the middle of it — and I just sat there and just said, 'This is a vision.' "

Jalen Hill added a career-high 26 points on nine-for-11 shooting and grabbed eight rebounds. He also was assigned to guard Alabama freshman Brandon Miller, who came in averaging 19.5 points but finished with 11 on four-for-14 shooting.

Hill said he wanted to show what he was about.

"I feel like I had something to prove," the senior said. "He's going to be a top-five draft pick at the end of the day, and I just wanted to prove to everybody — the scouts, the country — that I can hang with him."

Moser said it was a typical performance for Hill.

"What he does night in and night out, the guys he guards — he's guarding lottery picks and he is resilient," Moser said.

Tanner Groves had 14 points and 12 rebounds for Oklahoma (12-9), which shot 58% from the field and had a season high in points.

The Crimson Tide (18-3) had won nine in a row.

at No. 3 Houston 75, Cincinnati 69: Jarace Walker had a career-high 25 points, and the Cougars (20-2, 8-1 American Athletic Conference) rallied from an 11-point second-half deficit.

No. 4 Tennessee 82, No. 10 Texas 71: Olivier Nkamhoua scored 27 points and Zakai Zeigler had 22 points and 10 assists to lead the Volunteers (18-3) over the Longhorns (17-4) in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge.

at No. 5 Kansas State 64, Florida 50: Keyontae Johnson had 13 points and 11 rebounds against his former team, and the Wildcats (18-3) won in the Big 12-SEC Challenge.

at No. 7 Virginia 76, Boston College 57: Armaan Franklin and Jayden Gardner scored 18 points each and the Cavaliers (16-3, 8-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) used a big first-half run for their sixth straight victory.

No. 9 Kansas 77, at Kentucky 68: Jalen Wilson scored 22 points, including one of a series of huge three-pointers down the stretch, and the Jayhawks (17-4) won in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge.

at Mississippi State 81, No. 11 Texas Christian 74, OT: Tolu Smith had 27 points, 13 rebounds and five assists to help the Bulldogs (13-8) stop a five-game skid.

at Missouri 78, No. 12 Iowa State 61: Kobe Brown scored 20 points with 12 rebounds to help the Tigers (16-5) take down the Cyclones (15-5) in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge.

at Creighton 84, No. 13 Xavier 67: Arthur Kamula had 20 points and the Bluejays (13-8, 7-3) earned their fourth straight Big East win.

No. 14 Gonzaga 82, at Portland 67: Julian Strawther had a career-high 40 points, including eight threes, and the Bulldogs (18-4, 7-1 West Coast Conference) got their 16th straight win over the Pilots.

at West Virginia 80, No. 15 Auburn 77: Erik Stevenson scored a career-high 31 points and the Mountaineers (13-8) withstood a furious late rally to win an SEC/Big 12 Challenge matchup.

No. 16 Marquette 89, at DePaul 69: David Joplin went eight for 11 on threes for a career-high 28 points and the Golden Eagles (17-5, 9-2) moved into a tie with Xavier atop the Big East.

at No. 17 Baylor 67, Arkansas 64: Keyonte George scored 24 points, including seven in a row down the stretch, and the Bears (16-5) won their sixth straight, in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge.

Hofstra 85, at No. 18 Charleston 81: Aaron Estrada scored 25 points and the Pride ended the 20-game winning streak of the Cougars (21-2, 9-1 Colonial Athletic Association).

at Pittsburgh 71, No. 20 Miami 68: Blake Hinson tipped in a miss with 31 seconds remaining and the Panthers rallied past the Hurricanes (16-5, 7-4 ACC).

at No. 21 Florida Atlantic 70, Western Kentucky 63: Brandon Weatherspoon scored 14 points and the Owls (21-1, 11-0 Conference USA) extended their winning streak to a program-record 20 games, which is now the nation's longest.

No. 22 Saint Mary's 57, at Brigham Young 56: Aidan Mahaney's jumper with 0.3 seconds left lifted the Gaels (19-4, 8-0 WCC).

No. 24 Clemson 82, at Florida State 81: Chase Hunter drove the lane and drew a foul, sinking the free throw to help the Tigers (18-4, 10-1 ACC) escape.

Women

at No. 18 Iowa State 86, No. 14 Oklahoma 78: Ashley Joens scored 32 points to lead the win, overshadowing the Sooners' Taylor Robertson becoming the Division I career leader in threes.

Results

MEN'S TOP 25

Oklahoma 93, No. 2 Alabama 69
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Los Angeles Times

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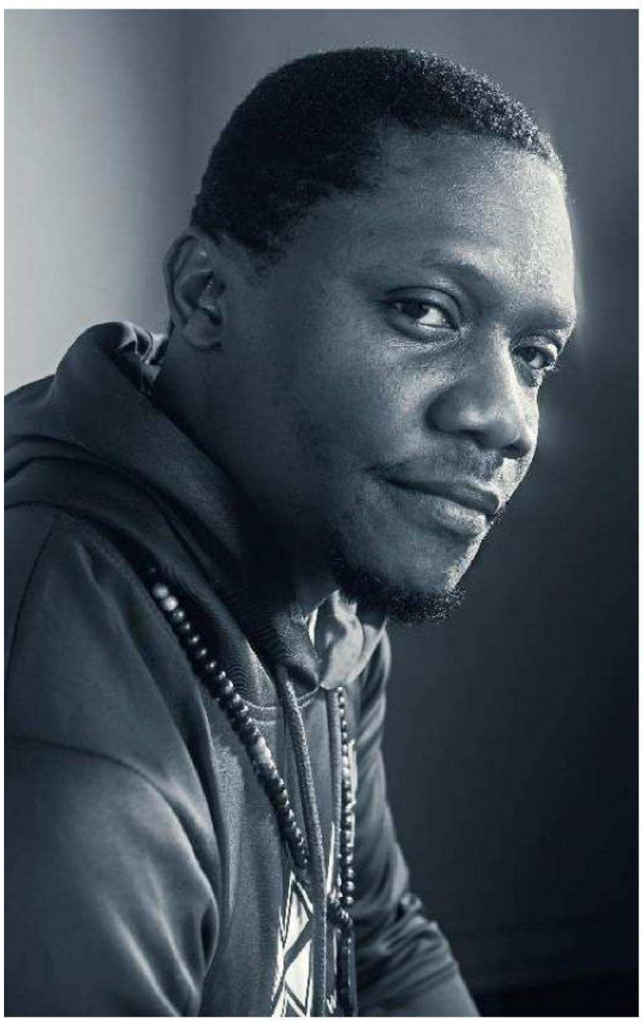
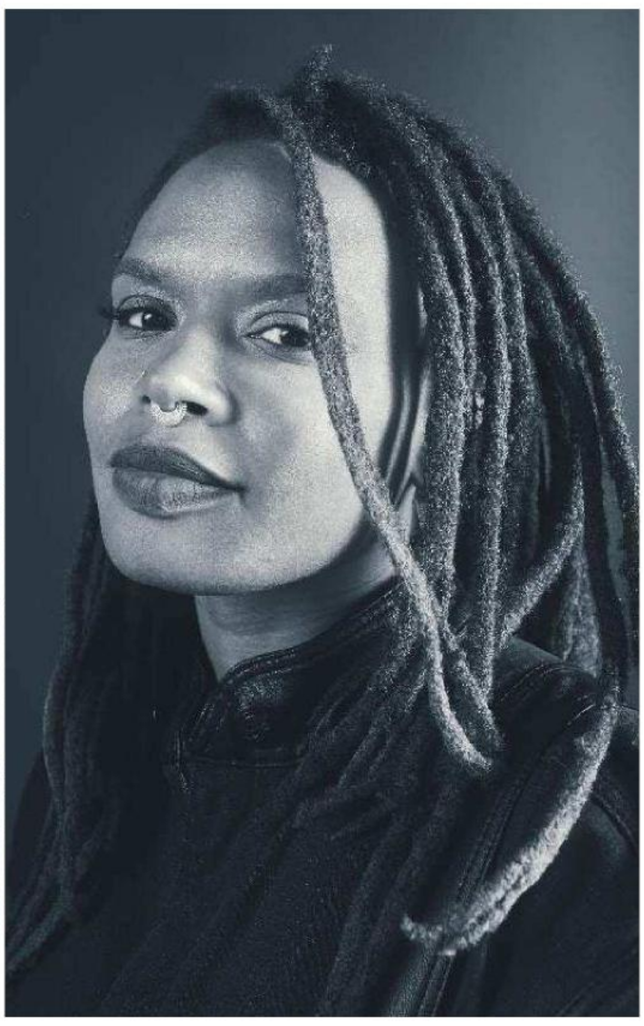


C.J. 'FIERY' OBASI

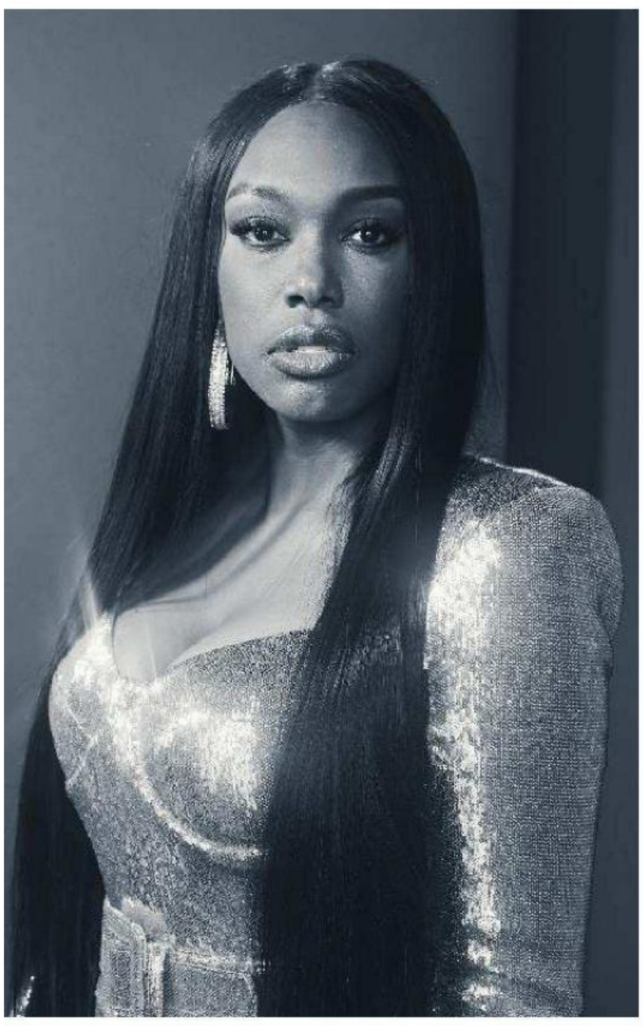
KRISTEN LOVELL AND ZACKARY DRUCKER



RAVEN JACKSON

ON THE TRAIL OF
THE INDEPENDENTS

Take a deep dive into the life of an indie filmmaker as we follow 7 Sundance artists through a year's worth of challenges and joys. **E4**



THEMBI BANKS

ERICA TREMBLAY

NIDA MANZOOR

Photographs by Mariah Tauger Los Angeles Times

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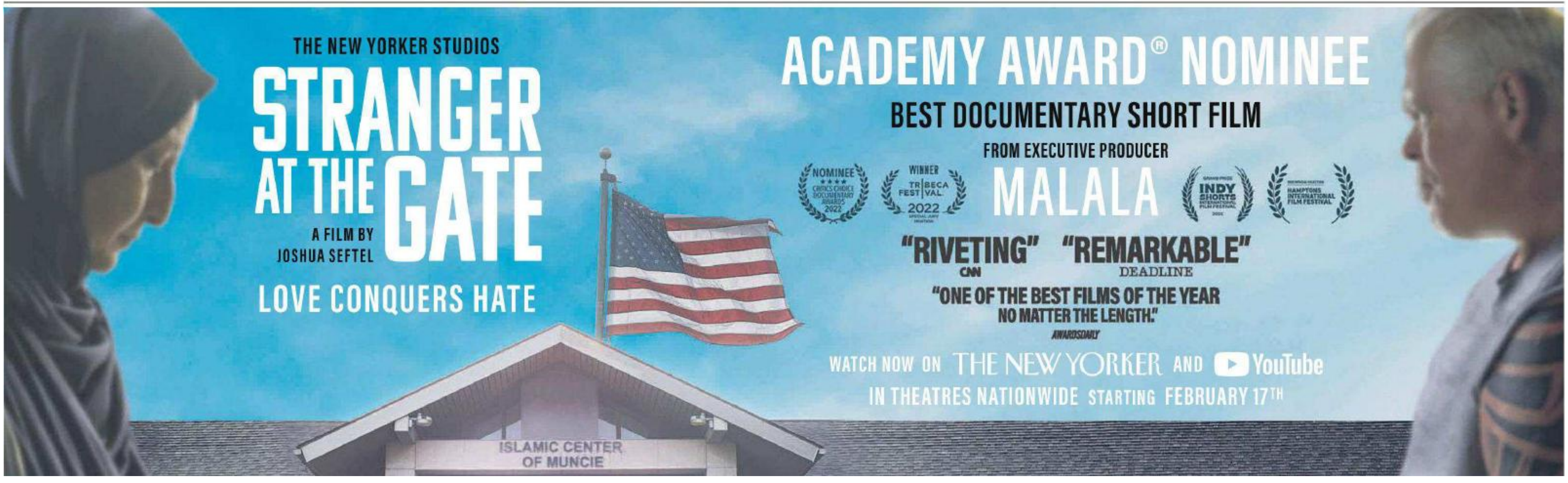

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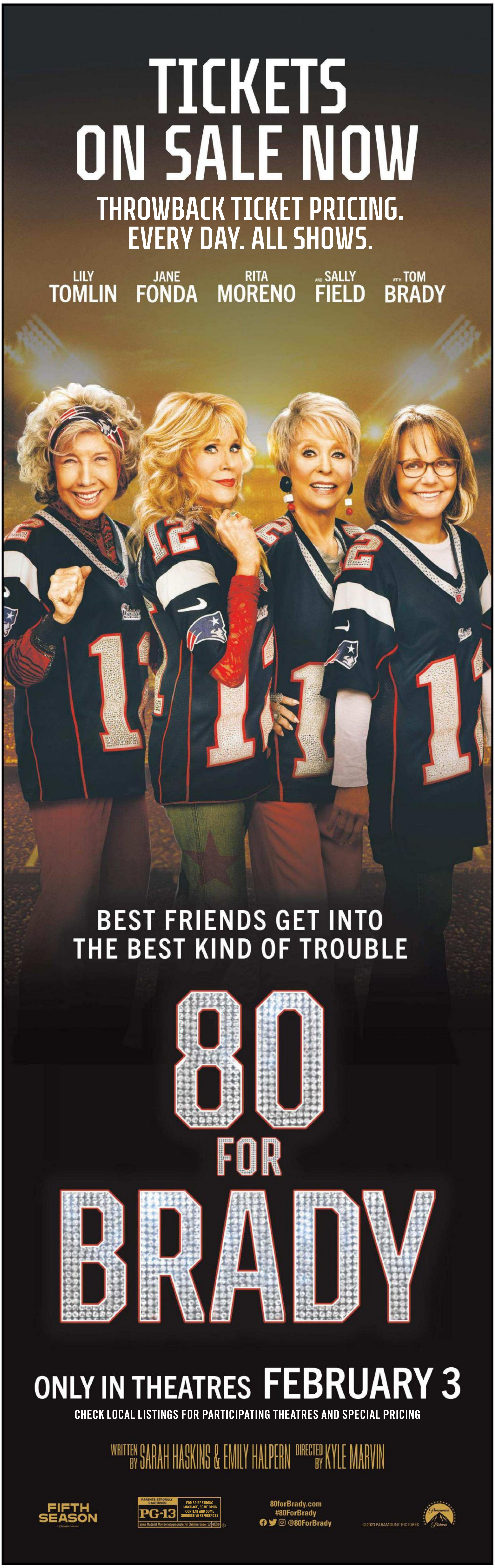
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A PROBLEM NO ONE WANTS TO SOLVE

SURE, EVERYONE HATES TICKETMASTER. BUT WHO'S REALLY TO BLAME FOR ALL ITS ISSUES, AND WHERE'S THE WILL TO FIX THEM?

BY AUGUST BROWN

IF YOU LOATHE Ticketmaster for its infamous service fees or the software overload that cost you Taylor Swift tickets this summer, just know that Fred Rosen is unmoved by your anger. ¶ "The public brought all this on itself," said Rosen, the 79-year-old former chief executive of Ticketmaster, who grew it into an inescapable presence for concert and sports fans in the 1980s and '90s. ¶ "I have no sympathy for people whining about high ticket prices," he continued, pointing a finger at fans who downloaded music without paying for it during the heyday of file-sharing services like Napster. "They helped create this situation where artists have to make all their money on tour. Artists and the market set the prices, and you can't pay a Motel 6 price and stay at the Four Seasons."

DANIA MAXWELL L.A. Times

> 'I am so tired of people saying things can't be done about this massive issue while huge monopolies sit there stealing money from working-class people.'
>
> **Zach Bryan**

Fans, artists and government regulators have lambasted Ticketmaster for 30 years. But after tech failures shut out millions of fans from the on-sale for Swift's Eras tour in November, the ticketing firm came under fire from all sides.

Furious Swifties filed a class-action lawsuit against Ticketmaster, joining at least 15 other suits in the last five years against the company and its parent firm, concert promotion giant Live Nation Entertainment, that claimed anti-competitive practices. Swift herself said, "I'm not going to make excuses for anyone because we asked [Ticketmaster], multiple times, if they could handle this kind of demand and we were assured they could. … It really pisses me off that a lot of [fans] feel like they went through several bear attacks to get them."

Bad Bunny fans found common cause after thousands attending the rapper's December Mexico City stadium show were turned away for allegedly fake tickets. (Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said he will penalize Ticketmaster.) Alt-country star Zach Bryan titled his new live album "All My Homies Hate Ticketmaster (Live at Red Rocks)," and said, "I am so tired of people saying things can't be done about this massive issue while huge monopolies sit there stealing money from working-class people."

Even a beloved act like Bruce Springsteen had to answer for eyebrow-raising ticket prices on his upcoming tour; they hit $5,000 when he used Ticketmaster's "dynamic pricing" model, which responds to rapid demand by raising prices in real time. "Ticket buying has gotten very confusing, not just for the fans but for the artists," Springsteen admitted.

Members of the U.S. Congress, from Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) to Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.), lambasted Live Nation Entertainment, promising legislation to check the company's power and urging the Department of Justice to reexamine the consent decree that allowed Ticketmaster to merge with Live Nation back in 2010. In 2019, the DOJ said that new regulations on Ticketmaster were "the most significant enforcement action of an existing antitrust decree by the Department in 20 years."

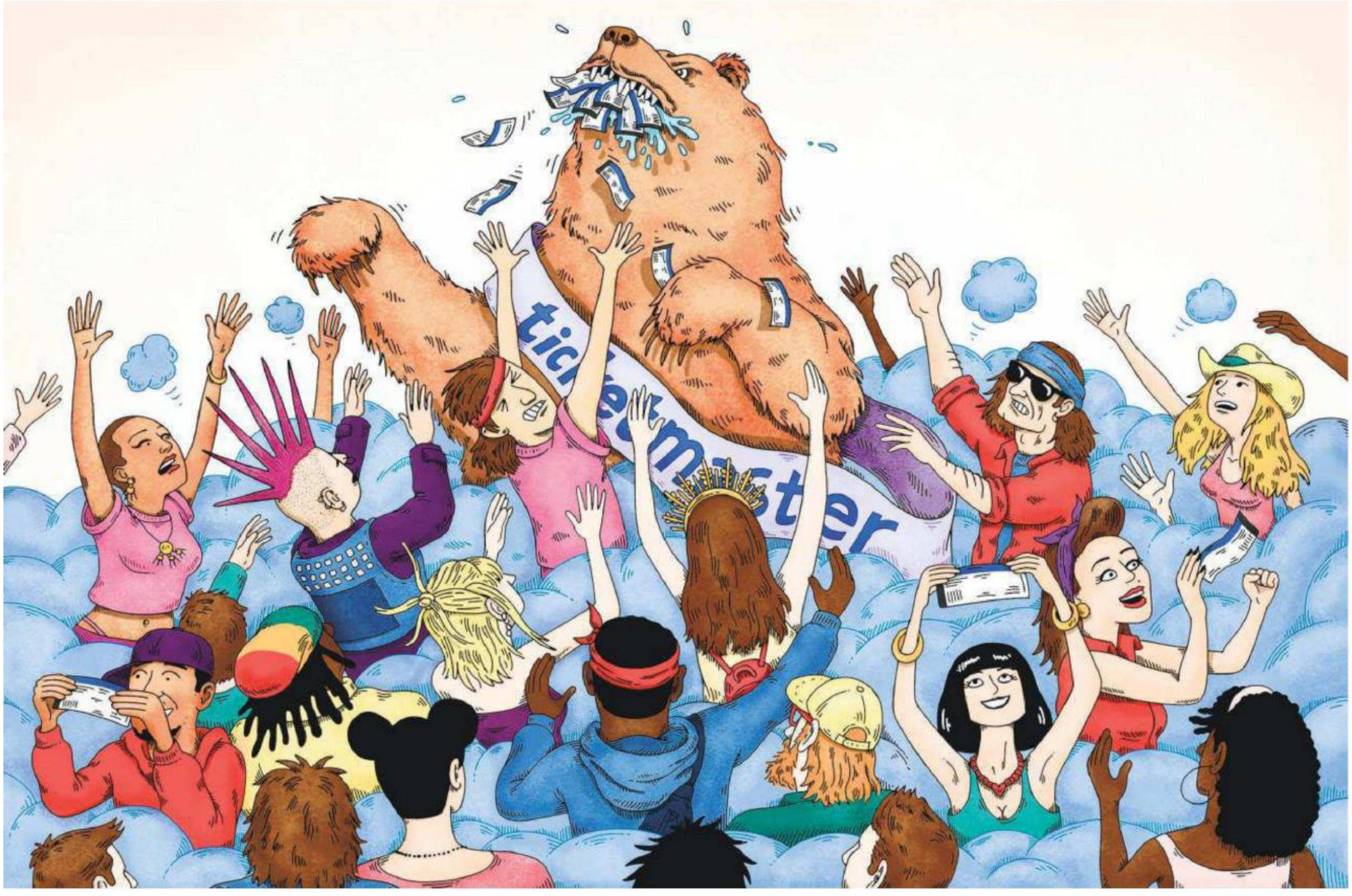
"Live Nation and Ticketmaster are the owners of venues, they're vertically integrated and they sell the tickets," Klobuchar told The Times in November. "Artists are afraid to go through anyone but them, and they favor their own venues. … If you own it all, you can thumb your nose at the marketplace, and that puts this problem in the hands of the Justice Department."

Klobuchar and Mike Lee (R-Utah) led a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing about competition in the U.S. ticketing market last week.

Even President Biden weighed in. Asked about the Swift debacle, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the president believes that "capitalism without competition isn't capitalism, it's exploitation."

In a statement after the botched on-sale, Ticketmaster wrote, "We strive to make ticket buying as easy as possible for fans, but that hasn't been the case for many people trying to buy tickets for the Eras Tour. … The biggest venues and artists turn to us because we have the leading ticketing technology in the world — that doesn't mean it's perfect, and clearly for Taylor's on-sale it wasn't."

Live Nation Entertainment President and Chief Financial Officer Joe Berchtold, in advance written testimony provided to The Times before Live Nation's Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last Tuesday, said, "Ticketmaster comes under a lot of



Andrew Rae For The Times

criticism. ... But I can say with great confidence that ... its performance in large onsales is the best in the industry, it has the best marketing capabilities of any ticketing system, and it is far and away the leader in preventing fraud and getting tickets into the hands of real fans."

Yet the actual role that Ticketmaster plays in live music is widely misunderstood. In over a dozen interviews with former Ticketmaster executives, artist managers, economists, lawmakers, antitrust experts, fans and industry insiders, many agreed that Ticketmaster is enormous and largely unaccountable to fans. But, they said, it is also a mostly effective business with few peers capable of operating at its scale.

"Ticketmaster got thrown under the bus because it's easy to throw them under the bus," Rosen said. "There is no solution that won't piss people off more."

::

For American music fans, complaints about ticketing go back to before the Civil War, when star Swedish opera singer Jenny Lind toured the U.S. under the auspices of promoter P.T. Barnum, prompting riots and howls of corruption when her shows instantly sold out at inflated prices.

Steve Waksman, the author of "Live Music in America," said that even into the 1960s and '70s, there was some expectation that music — especially the rock 'n' roll of the hippie counterculture — should be "free for the community, and to some degree anticapitalist."

"The idea that fans are owed something is not new," Waksman said. "But now it's not a counterculture idea, it's more consumer entitlement."

Ticketmaster, with its 6,500 worldwide employees (compared with 44,000 at Live Nation Entertainment), controls close to 80% of the U.S. ticket market. With estimated annual profits of $750 million, it is the most lucrative piece of the Live Nation conglomerate, which cleared $15 billion in yearly revenue as of Sept. 30. It's overseen by Live Nation Entertainment Chief Executive Michael Rapino.

While there are competitors such as AEG's ticketing arm AXS, SeatGeek, Eventbrite and Tessera, no one comes close to Ticketmaster's market power.

Ticketmaster's business covers much more than concerts. If you want to see the Lakers at Crypto.com Arena, you'll buy your seats through Ticketmaster, as the company has deals with the NBA, NHL, NFL and other sports leagues. Live Nation owns or operates some venues exclusively (like the Hollywood Palladium and YouTube Theater) and leases nights at others like the Hollywood Bowl and SoFi Stadium, where it pays the venue fees to produce shows.

Founded in the 1970s in Arizona by box office executive Albert Leffler and computer programmer Peter Gadwa, among others, the company licensed nascent ticketing software and machinery to promoters and venues. Rosen, the company's attorney, took it over in 1982, moving it to Los Angeles with investments from the billionaire Pritzker family, and bought the rights to Bay Area Seating Services, a leading competitor.

Ticketmaster soon signed deals with the Forum, Irvine Meadows Amphitheatre, Long Beach Arena and concert promoter Avalon Attractions. Ticketmaster acquired its chief rival, Ticketron, in 1991.

"Every building manager knows selling tickets is thankless," Rosen said. "But Ticketmaster had better tech than anybody in the industry. If a show cancels, you get your money back. If you're an arena, you need your accounting and data center to work 365 days a year. No other system on earth could deal with that volume. And we ran a clean business — we wouldn't deal with scalpers and canceled orders to brokers."

After Microsoft cofounder Paul Allen bought a majority stake in 1993, the grunge group Pearl Jam declared war on Ticketmaster. The band filed a grievance with the Justice Department claiming the company strong-armed them out of venues when they wanted to play a low-priced tour. Through its exclusive deals with venues, Ticketmaster could "cement control over the distribution of tickets," the band alleged, and testified before Congress about their experience.

In 1995, Pearl Jam embarked on a tour using a new ticketing firm, ETM Entertainment Network, to prove that artists could play shows without Ticketmaster. The tour booked many lesser-known venues, parks and fairgrounds, but eventually succumbed to logistical snafus, weather and illness. (It did, however, lead promoters to the Empire Polo Grounds in Indio, later the site of Coachella.)

In 1998, Barry Diller's company, now IAC, bought a majority stake in Ticketmaster and acquired competitors like TicketWeb, software firm Paciolan Inc. and resellers Getmein and TicketsNow. The firm merged with Irving Azoff's Front Line Management in 2008, and Live Nation acquired it in 2010 under a federal consent decree requiring it to license its software to AXS, and to not retaliate against venues using other platforms. Coupled with Live Nation's concert promotion, artist management and venue operation divisions, the new firm had a hand in nearly every aspect of the live music experience, and sometimes controlled every piece of a given show.

Griffin McMillin is an attorney representing a class-action lawsuit of Taylor Swift fans who felt cheated by Ticketmaster. In November, more than 3.5 million Swift fans preregistered under the Verified Fan program to buy tickets, only to watch in horror as the website collapsed under 3.5 billion simultaneous attempts to buy tickets.

"I feel like they've done all this monopolistic behavior for so long, and this was just the straw that broke the camel's back," McMillin said. "They're going to keep gathering more and more power, charging more and more, until concerts become this luxury for only the richest people and scalpers."

Clay Murray, 25, one of the Swift fans involved in the suit, said that fans like him waited hours in the digital line for tickets, only to end up "sobbing, crying, really upset. People can't afford to spend so much money, and I had done everything that I was supposed to do. It was personally devastating, and then the anger continued to grow."

::

Music fans are not Ticketmaster's main customers. The company signs contracts with promoters and venues to sell tickets to their events, and pays advances and fees for the right to do so. Many of the contracts are exclusive, but not all. The firm does not set the price of concert tickets — artists and promoters do. And while individual contracts vary, Ticketmaster splits its service fees with the artists, venues and promoters.

Washington Post via Getty Images

'Ticket buying has gotten very confusing, not just for the fans but for the artists.'

Bruce Springsteen

Case in point: For Blink-182's reunion tour date at Banc of California Stadium on June 16, the list price of a "Platinum" ticket is $290. Add on a "service fee" of $42.90 and a "processing fee" of $5, and the price of admission (excluding parking and concessions) comes to $337.90. (There is no charge to have the ticket sent to your phone, but other shows can have "delivery charges" or "facility fees.")

The "service fee" is intentionally kept separate from the list price for two reasons: to make the base price of a ticket appear more affordable, and to create the impression that only Ticketmaster pockets that fee.

"The ticketing company does nothing whatsoever that the act doesn't tell them to do," said Bob Lefsetz, a longtime music industry analyst. "Fees were created to create another pile of money. Ticketmaster has been paid to take the heat over that for forever, so the public will never hate the act."

Eric Budish, an economics professor at the University of Chicago who studies the U.S. ticketing market, agreed that service fees are opaque and frustrating. But they're designed to insulate artists, venues and promoters from criticism.

"Ticketmaster is effectively paid to be a punching bag," Budish said. "Their fees find ways back to the artist or venue. And the artist chooses their ticket prices."

Ticketmaster grew so vast, in part, because it was a good deal for everyone else in the industry, according to Dean Budnick, co-author of the book "Ticket Masters: The Rise of the Concert Industry and How the Public Got Scalped."

"Ticketmaster and Live Nation are both unfairly criticized," Budnick said. "Fred Rosen thought he was a good partner for taking the heat, and he's not wrong. He took it on the chin for venues and promoters."

Jonathan Daniel, an artist manager for Fall Out Boy and Green Day, used Ticketmaster and Live Nation to handle the bands' Hella Mega stadium tour last year. "If Ticketmaster gets regulated, you'll invite some new problems, because Ticketmaster solved a lot of them," Daniel said. "You'll still have websites crashing whether it's Ticketmaster or Joe's Tickets or whatever."

Verified Fan, Ticketmaster's system to suss out actual humans from bot traffic and scalpers, had worked for acts like Springsteen and Swift in the past. But even that system couldn't accommodate the demand for Swift's Eras.

Several high-ranking concert industry executives, who requested anonymity so they could speak freely about the competition, said they suspected Ticketmaster erred in placing all the Eras tickets on sale at once and allowing fans to choose seats, which led to bottlenecked traffic.

One 2016 study from the New York Attorney General found that more than half of the seats at an average show never went on sale to the general public but were instead reserved for presales, artist teams, fan clubs or as perks for certain credit card users.

Artists loathe secondary vendors too — the acts don't get a cut of tickets reselling for multiples of face value. But as much as fans hate resellers when they're trying to buy, they love them when trying to flip their tickets.

"We have the tech to turn off the resale market — just put names on tickets like we do with airlines," Budish said. "You show ID at the door and you can only buy two tickets, so money doesn't go to brokers and there's no feeling of a massive injustice. But the only reason it's hard is because no one wants to actually solve that problem."

::

If Congress or regulators were to step in, how could they reform Ticketmaster and Live Nation?

There's some precedent for ticketing legislation, like the 2016 BOTS Act, which authorized the Federal Trade Commission to levy fines for automated ticket scalping. In 2019, the DOJ extended Live Nation and Ticketmaster's consent decree by 5 ½ years, mandating they "may not threaten to withhold concerts from a venue if the venue chooses a ticketer other than Ticketmaster."

The Antitrust Division of the DOJ appointed an independent monitor to investigate Live Nation, which had to hire a compliance officer and pay $1 million for each violation of the consent decree.

"Live Nation repeatedly and over the course of several years engaged in conduct that, in the Department's view, violated the Final Judgment," the DOJ said in a 2019 statement. "The Department will not tolerate transgressions that hurt the American consumer."

Live Nation Entertainment is already under extensive scrutiny after the multiple fatalities at two Live Nation-produced events, Astroworld and Once Upon a Time in L.A., with hundreds of plaintiffs suing for wrongful deaths and injuries.

Industry and regulatory experts agree that, whatever the synergies, Live Nation and Ticketmaster wield outsized power across live music.

Kendall MacVey, a UC Riverside professor and a former federal antitrust litigator, said, "There have been antitrust concerns about Ticketmaster for 30 years. Both people on the left and right agree on the need for more vigorous enforcement."

The DOJ reportedly has opened a separate investigation into Live Nation, going beyond the terms of the consent decree.

"I would not at all be surprised if real enforcement does come this time," said MacVey. "That could mean splitting Live Nation from Ticketmaster."

Lina Khan, the chair of the Federal Trade Commission, which has rulemaking authority for consumer protection issues, has said that Ticketmaster is an example of a firm "becoming too big to care," and that "I'm sure it's top of mind for [DOJ]."

Such a move would create more openings for firms like AEG to competitively bid for shows. That would be a benefit in itself, Waksman said. "It's not good for consumers or the industry to have so much power tied up in one company," he added.

Randy Phillips, former CEO of AEG Live, said that, while the DOJ's consent decree prohibits monopolistic behavior, "There is supposed to be a wall between Ticketmaster and Live Nation, and most promoters don't believe that exists."

"When Live Nation owns and operates venues, promotes the show and manages the artist that sets the service fees, you're not going to see a lot of pushback," Budnick said. "If you're a venue going with Ticketmaster, Live Nation brings more major tours your way."

Breaking up the firm "would have a huge effect on Live Nation," Lefsetz said. But it won't fix everything. "Once you take Ticketmaster out, that still doesn't solve the underlying problems around fees and exclusives. If Ticketmaster is a separate company, they'll still be entitled to do all of that."

Regulators could dilute Ticketmaster's power by banning exclusive contracts for ticketing. That's the case in much of the United Kingdom, where multiple companies can sell tickets to any given concert.

"In the U.S., unlike the U.K. and Europe, venues have five- to 10-year exclusive contracts with ticketing platforms like Ticketmaster," Phillips said. "Advances to secure these contracts are revenue for the venue owners."

Lefsetz agreed that ending exclusive deals is one obvious fix. "But say I own a building," he adds. "Can the government just choose to take away that guaranteed revenue stream from me?"

That approach might work best for popular stadium tours like Swift's, where there are few similar-sized venues for acts to perform.

Rick Scuteri Invision / AP

'It really pisses me off that a lot of [fans] feel like they went through several bear attacks to get [tickets].'

Taylor Swift

"Taylor said, 'I didn't have many alternatives, I had to play these venues in big cities,' and that's where Ticketmaster's market power manifests," Budish, the economist, said. "If you want, you should be allowed to play SoFi for $50 a ticket and have no resale market. So if you can't do that, why? There is a public-utility aspect to those venues. Being able to play there at a price you want to set should be an option."

The ultimate problem may just be the fact that many more people want to see Taylor Swift than there are seats available on her tour, which comes to SoFi Stadium for five nights in August. There are likely no fixes beyond raising prices, adding more dates or shutting off secondary markets.

Even venues that try to quit Ticketmaster may find it's not so easy to leave. Brooklyn's Barclays Center (home of the NBA's Brooklyn Nets and arena-sized concerts) recently ended a seven-year deal with SeatGeek one year into the contract, to partner with its old vendor: Ticketmaster.

Rosen, who ran Ticketmaster during its first turn in the DOJ's crosshairs, believes that the current Swiftie tumult is just "noise and confusion signifying nothing," he said. "You've got to take the government seriously, but they could have brought a case in '94 and didn't. That class-action suit is all bull—. It will all end with nothing changed, because that's not what the issues are."

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF 7 SUNDANCE FILMMAKERS

MEET THE INDEPENDENTS, THE DIRECTORS WE'LL BE FOLLOWING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AS THEIR PROJECTS GO FROM FESTIVAL TO A FLURRY OF FOCUS

PARK CITY, UTAH

IN 1985, Robert Redford's fledgling Sundance Institute, founded four years earlier to support American independent cinema, assumed control over what was then known as the U.S. Film Festival.

In retrospect, the lineup that year alone would have swiftly established the festival's credentials as the preeminent celebration of independent filmmaking in the world: In addition to the Coen brothers' debut, "Blood Simple," Jim Jarmusch's "Stranger Than Paradise" and Roland Joffé's "The Killing Fields," the inaugural edition featured titles from John Sayles and John Schlesinger and jurors such as D.A. Pennebaker, Frederick Wiseman and Barbara Kopple. In the years since, the Sundance Film Festival — the name became official in 1991 — has expanded to include some 100 feature films annually from thousands of submissions, not to mention countless panels, parties and special projects, all with the imprimatur of the filmmakers whose names have been made there: Wes Anderson, Darren Aronofsky, Ryan Coogler, Ava DuVernay, Todd Field, Catherine Hardwicke, Todd Haynes, Nicole Holofcener, Rian Johnson, Richard Linklater, Alexander Payne, Robert Rodriguez, Kevin Smith, Steven Soderbergh, Quentin Tarantino, James Wan, Chloé Zhao and many more.

2024 will mark the 40th edition of the festival under Sundance's auspices, and in the same spirit that has inspired the event since 1985, we're commemorating the occasion by taking a closer look at the lives of independent filmmakers in the here and now. Over the course of the next 12 months, we'll follow the seven filmmakers below — five individuals and one pair — from their projects' Sundance premiere through acquisition, distribution, reception and perhaps even awards, pausing along the way to gather their advice for the next crop of Sundance artists, record a diary of their working lives and candidly discuss the joys and challenges of their chosen field.

From the Los Angeles Times, this is The Independents: A Year in the Life of the Indie Filmmaker. Meet our class of participants.

TOMMY OLIVER Sundance Institute

"YOUNG. WILD. FREE." is director Thembi Banks' first feature film and is set in South L.A.

THEMBI BANKS

Writer and director Banks was at the last in-person Sundance Film Festival in 2020 with her short film "Baldwin Beauty" and is back this year with her feature debut, "Young. Wild. Free." The film premiered in the festival's Next section, which is a showcase for adventurous storytelling.

"I'm a crazy, overachieving Black woman who's not sleeping and trying to do all the things," Banks said in an interview on the day of her film's premiere, while trying to explain the path to directing and co-writing her first feature. Set in South Los Angeles, the film follows Brandon (Algee Smith) as he tries to finish high school while also taking care of his two younger half-siblings and looking after his mother, Janice (Sanaa Lathan), who struggles with mental health issues. One night he meets Cassidy (Sierra Capri) as she is robbing a convenience store; she just shows up at his house without warning shortly after. The two fall into a whirlwind romance that only further complicates Brandon's life.

Born and raised in Harlem, N.Y., Banks went to the LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, studying theater and drama. She was pursuing an acting career while attending Rutgers University in New Jersey, coming back into New York City for auditions. After graduating she spent some time as an NBC page at 30 Rockefeller Plaza and eventually applied to the MFA track at USC's Film & Television program.

"I love acting, but I think one of the surefire ways of being able to guarantee myself a job is to write myself a job, is to direct myself and hire myself," said Banks of her turn to directing. "That was the impetus to start creating. And I was like, 'Well, how do I do it?' "

After USC, she began to apply to fellowships and other programs around Hollywood, ultimately participating in Ryan Murphy's HALF Initiative and Paul Feig's Powderkeg among others, making short films that would help her move on to the next spot — where she would make a short film to move on to the next spot.

"I never tell people my age," Banks said. "Everyone's always trying to Google it too."

She's directed episodes of multiple TV shows including "Insecure," "The Sex Lives of College Girls" and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," and was also a writer on "Only Murders in the Building." Eventually, a classmate from USC, screenwriter Juel Taylor, brought her the script for "Young. Wild. Free." and they developed it together.

There is something of a promise in the title of "Young. Wild. Free." — an expectation that the film will have a distinctive energy and approach to storytelling.

"I just don't like to be beholden to any particular kind of tonality or genre. I think films are genre-fluid now," said Banks. "That rule that, 'Is it drama or comedy? What is it? Is it coming-of-age or is it a rom-com?' Those strict rules only apply when it's not done well, when the blend doesn't work. You don't understand that it's really doable until you see it." — *Mark Olsen*

RAVEN JACKSON

When Jackson embarked upon her debut feature, "All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt," she and cinematographer Jomo Fray drew up a "manifesto" they read every day before shooting: "To be tactile," one line went, "is to have details."

The result, which attracted the support of producer Barry Jenkins' Pastel and chic independent studio/distributor A24 before premiering in the U.S. dramatic competition at the Sundance Film Festival, sees those seven words to striking fruition, capturing the arc of a mother's arm or a couple's unbroken embrace with such force the film seems to reach out and touch you.

Its impressionistic, fragmented life story of a Black woman in Mississippi, influenced by the likes of Lynne Ramsay, Julie Dash, Terrence Malick and Carlos Reygadas, is not to be understood logically so much as absorbed by osmosis — fitting for a filmmaker who grew up fishing on the Cumberland River near Clarksville, Tenn., and soaked "All Dirt Roads" through with invigorating images of water.

Jackson, 32, ascribes her keen eye and fluid process — "Things aren't falling apart, they're falling together" — to her training as a poet; she received an MFA from the New School Creative Writing Program in 2014. In fact, her path to cinema began not as a decided ambition but as an inchoate dream, even an impulse. She describes her (successful) application to New York University's Graduate Film Program, from which she graduated in 2019, as "a now-or-never moment."

It was at NYU that Jackson met her friend, classmate and producer Maria Altamirano, who worked with her on her 2018 short "Nettles," and "All Dirt Roads" began to take shape, evolving from a pitch deck — including Super 8 footage of her parents — to the finished product, which filmed in fall 2021. Along the way, Jackson heeded the

JACLYN MARTINEZ Sundance Institute

RAVEN JACKSON followed her instincts when directing her feature "All Dirt Roads Taste of Salt."

MARIAH TAUGER Los Angeles Times

INDIE FILMMAKERS, standing, from left, Erica Tremblay, Kristen Lovell, Nida Manzoor and Raven Jackson; seated, from left, Zackary Drucker, Thembi Banks and C.J. "Fiery" Obasi, all have films that premiered at this year's Sundance festival.

advice she gave to Fray during shooting, "Follow your instincts on what moves you." One serendipitous example? Browsing New York's Strand bookstore as she sought a church to use for several key sequences in the film, she stumbled upon Bill Ferris' images of Rose Hill Church, in his Warren County, Miss., backyard, from the 1960s and 1970s — then reached out to Ferris, learned the church was still standing and established a lasting friendship with the famed photographer.

Such trust in what she terms "flow" may explain why Jackson, when I sit down with her in a cozy, sun-splashed living room on the third floor of A24's Sundance condo, describes herself as feeling more "centered" than she expected, or why, when asked to envision her hopes for herself and the film at the end of her Sundance year, she closes her eyes and disappears for a moment, in search of an honest answer. After years of nurturing the belief that what moves her will move her cinematographer, her actors, her producers, her audience, she's finally come to trust it.

"I'm not surprised," she says of feeling calm on the eve of the film's world premiere. "This is the film I aimed to make."
— *Matt Brennan*

PARISA TAGHIZADEH Sundance Institute

NIDA MANZOOR'S "Polite Society" is a "genre-bending crazy story" starring Priya Kansara, above.

NIDA MANZOOR

It has been a 10-year journey for Manzoor to bring her debut feature as writer-director to the big screen. "Polite Society" premiered as part of the Midnight section at Sundance and will be released to theaters by Focus Features in April.

Peppered with personal and autobiographical references, the story focuses on Ria Khan (charismatic newcomer Priya Kansara), a Pakistani Muslim teenager in London with dreams of becoming a stuntwoman. When her sister Lena (Ritu Arya) quickly becomes engaged to Salim (Akshay Khanna), a wealthy doctor, Ria is both upset and suspicious. As she tries to find a way to break up the engagement, she discovers something most unexpected. Combining a family story with physical comedy and dazzling martial arts action sequences, the film has a raucous, unpredictable style that Manzoor describes as "a little feral."

"Having a fun time for me is like ingrained as my No. 1," Manzoor said during an interview in Park City. "We're not trying to teach you or preach to you, we're just wanting to give entertainment to the audience. And if there's a cool message there that's a bonus."

In the years she was trying to get the film made, among her other credits, she created, wrote and directed "We Are Lady Parts," a six-episode comedy series about a punk band of Muslim women streaming on Peacock that won a Peabody Award.

Manzoor's parents were born in Pakistan, moved briefly to the U.S. and then settled in London, where Manzoor, now 33, was born. When she was still an infant, her family moved to Singapore and returned to London when she was 10.

Manzoor's father instilled in her a love of American pop culture that he picked up during his time living in the U.S. Still, though she had already begun to get jobs directing television comedies, it wasn't until she was hired to direct episodes on the BBC series "Doctor Who" that her parents believed she could make a go of things in entertainment. "Now my dad's writing a screenplay," said Manzoor.

At the beginning of her career, Manzoor interned at the British Film Institute, worked as a director's assistant and was a runner at a post-production house in London's Soho, where she would work on her short films after hours. It was during that period she started to write the script that would become "Polite Society."

The success of "Lady Parts" gave Manzoor the opportunity to finally make "Polite Society" after the production company Working Title reached out to her. With Sundance providing a little break in the process, she is currently writing a second season for "We Are Lady Parts."

How far she has come is not lost on her, nor how exciting it is to be putting images of contemporary South Asian Muslim women onscreen — images she didn't see growing up.

"Some days I do feel pressure of representation and I don't want to mess up," Manzoor said. "But then oftentimes I release myself from it because I can't please everyone. Not everyone's going to love 'Polite Society' because a lot of people don't want to see a genre-bending crazy story. It's not for everyone and that's OK. And that's kind of cool. If I can't

[See **Filmmakers,** E6]

[**Filmmakers**, from E5] please everyone, I might as well just stick to pleasing myself." — *M.O.*

C.J. 'FIERY' OBASI

Even before he became a filmmaker, Obasi longed for years to bring a movie to Park City. Not long after graduating with a computer science degree from the University of Nigeria, he spent many late nights working in a data center's server room and often passed the time streaming video clips from Sundance festivals past: "Sundance was always the dream," he says.

Now, at 37, with several features and shorts under his belt and his technology career very much in the rearview mirror, he's the first Nigerian-based filmmaker to have a feature selected by Sundance: "Mami Wata," a vividly poetic black-and-white drama set in a coastal village whose traditional beliefs and way of life come under attack from within and without. The movie — produced by Oge Obasi, the director's longtime professional partner and wife, through their Fiery Film production company — premiered in the festival's World Cinema dramatic competition.

For Obasi, it's the fulfillment of a dream that began in childhood, when he first began watching movies on his family's old black-and-white TV set in their hometown of Owerri, Nigeria. Theatrical moviegoing experiences were hard to come by, but the local TV channels showed a rich array of world cinema, from Alfred Hitchcock's "The 39 Steps" to Ingmar Bergman's "The Seventh Seal." His favorites were always horror movies; the protagonist of his 2014 debut feature, "Ojuju," is named Romero (as in George). That low-budget thriller, set during a zombie outbreak caused by water pollution in a Lagos slum, premiered at the fourth Africa International Film Festival, where it won the award for best Nigerian movie. It went on to screen at numerous festivals worldwide, including the Pan African Film Festival in L.A.

Obasi's movies are replete with genre elements, including his 2015 feature, "O-Town," a semiautobiographical drama set in a fictionalized version of Owerri. But even within the context of a supernatural or gangland saga, he says, he has always strived to convey a sense of the beauty and texture of African life as it's really lived but seldom depicted, even by other African filmmakers. "I've always felt that even as Africans, we have this issue [in terms of] how we capture ourselves," he says. "And so my entire career has been about how to deprogram myself, so that I can capture us the way we should be."

For that reason, Obasi has never identified as a Nollywood filmmaker or felt any particular sense of kinship with the official Nigerian film industry, which he describes as having gone out of its way to place "stumbling blocks" in front of him during his early career.

"Mami Wata," his third and most ambitious feature, is notable for its pan-African sensibility; it was shot in the Republic of Benin, features West African Pidgin dialogue and is led by an Ivorian actor, Evelyne Ily, in the role of Prisca. It also centers on the popular African folkloric figure of Mami Wata, a water spirit who, Obasi says, once appeared to him during a trance-like vision. He shot the movie in black and white, in part to honor that vision as it appeared, and also to acknowledge all those movies he used to watch on that black-and-white TV set. — *Justin Chang*

ERICA TREMBLAY

Tremblay knew she wanted to be a filmmaker even before she really understood that that was a job. She was in junior high school when she persuaded her mother to buy her a video recorder at Goodwill, which she used to record plays, trampoline routines and more with the neighborhood kids.

"I always was that bossy kid in the neighborhood that was wrangling everyone together to do things," said Tremblay. "But they did it. I knew from that point I wanted to be a filmmaker."

Tremblay's debut feature, "Fancy Dance," which premiered at Sundance as part of its U.S. dramatic competition, is a tender and incisive look at life as a Native American woman. The realities of the physical and systemic violence that Indigenous women face are interspersed with moments of connection and community and even the joys of the mundane. It's the type of story that Tremblay has always wanted to tell but was told for years would have no audience.

Born in Oklahoma, Tremblay is from the Seneca-Cayuga Nation. She grew up in Oklahoma and southwest Missouri listening to storytellers, awed by their ability to provoke emotional reactions through their stories. Her childhood home did not have cable TV, but the video rental store down the block provided a steady stream of black-and-white classics featuring Laurel and Hardy, Shirley Temple, Charlie Chaplin and more.

It wasn't until after college and landing an assistant gig on a movie while living in Nebraska that Tremblay realized she could get a job doing production work. Because, it turns out, the world that seemed inaccessible to her as a young, Indigenous queer kid is staffed by ordinary people. So with dreams of eventually making her own films, she moved to Los Angeles.

Tremblay credits Sundance with helping her break into the industry. Her time in L.A. involved working various jobs adjacent to the entertainment industry, but her desire to break into more creative roles was often discouraged. Deciding it was finally time to take a chance on herself, she applied to the Sundance Institute's Native Lab, which helps nurture Indigenous filmmakers.

Tremblay's script for her short film "Little Chief" earned her a spot, and she was able to meet other Indigenous creatives. In addition to gaining confidence in her own work, being around these filmmakers helped reinvigorate Tremblay and inspired her to enroll in a Cayuga-language immersion program to further connect with her culture.

"Little Chief," which premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, helped propel Tremblay into the next step of her career: television. She served as the executive story editor on "Dark Winds," as well as on the second season of "Reservation Dogs," in which she directed her first TV episode. And although she is currently focused on "Fancy Dance," "Reservation Dogs" Season 3 and other projects await on the horizon.

"When I was working as a PA, everyone was always saying no," said Tremblay. "No one wants to hear Indigenous stories. No one wants to hear queer stories. No one wants to hear a woman tell a story. That first yes was so massively important to get." — *Tracy Brown*

KRISTEN LOVELL AND ZACKARY DRUCKER

Lovell has been determined to tell the story of the transgender sex workers of New York's Meatpacking District for almost 20 years.

Directed by Lovell and Drucker, "The Stroll," which refers to the area where trans sex workers would congregate, is a culmination of that resolve. The film, which is part of Sundance's U.S. documentary competition, offers a glimpse into the history of the Meatpacking District through archival footage and Lovell's interviews with people who worked there.

Lovell herself spent years working on the stroll. After moving to New York City as a teenager and losing her job as she began her transition, it was one of the only avenues available to her to survive. Her experiences were one of the first things she decided to document when she started taking a media training program for young people while still living in a youth shelter.

"The first time I picked up the camera, I was on the stroll," Lovell said. "I was the only Black trans woman in our cohort of young people, so I would tell them about what was going on on 14th Street."

Although this early footage was lost, Lovell continued to document her experiences with her own camera, which she bought with some of the funds she received after she aged out of the youth housing program. But, as she points out, it was aging out of the youth assistance programs that further necessitated she work the stroll; as a trans woman, traditional employment and other assistance were unavailable to her. She eventually started working at Sylvia's Place, a nonprofit offering a safe space for trans youth.

Although they never officially crossed paths, Drucker was orbiting some of the same spaces as Lovell. Drucker, who grew up in Syracuse, N.Y., had moved to the city in 2001 and, she explains, "walked the Meatpacking District as a naive kid." As a youth activist, she helped put up fliers for groups such as Fierce, an organization fighting gentrification that happened to be founded by some of Lovell's youth media cohorts.

With a background in photography and art, Drucker broke into narrative TV through the series "Transparent." Recently, she directed and executive produced the docuseries "The Lady and the Dale." "Until then, I'd been doing experimental film, video work, performance art — finding my identity as a trans person and as an artist and doing it all in an integrated way," Drucker said. "I never thought I could have a legitimate career in any legitimate industry. But the art world always seemed like an expansive space of innovation. And that was the world that nurtured me into realizing myself as a filmmaker."

Lovell, meanwhile, had continued to gather material while she worked in the nonprofit sector. Her brushes with media as one of the subjects of a documentary as well as an actor further convinced her that it was time to figure out how to make the jump to filmmaking to tell her own stories. An encounter with documentary filmmaker Matt Wolf led to an introduction to Drucker and their collaboration on this project.

Both Lovell and Drucker agree that it's time trans storytelling moves away from teaching the basics to telling more complex stories.

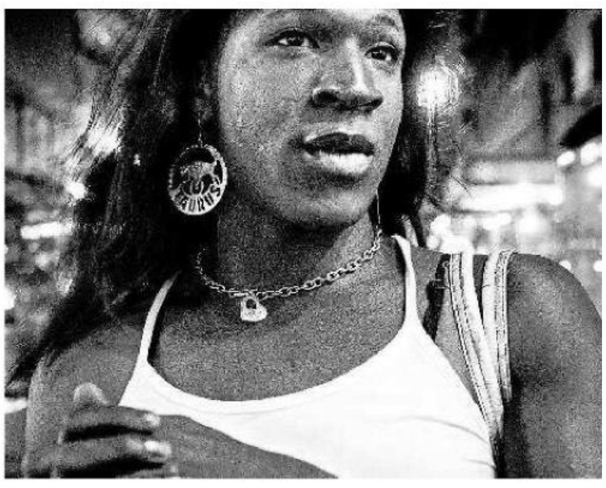
"There were people ... actively trying to erase the sex worker narrative, but you cannot have authentic stories without trans sex workers," Lovell said. "Whether it was your experience or other people's, it was still a part of the trans experience." — *T.B.*

Sundance Institute

"FANCY DANCE," from Erica Tremblay, looks at life as an Indigenous woman.

Sundance Institute

"MAMI WATA," with Rita Edochie, above, is Nigerian filmmaker C.J. Obasi's third feature film.



Sundance Institute

"THE STROLL," from Kristen Lovell and Zackary Drucker, tells the story of trans sex workers in N.Y.

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1:10 4:10 7:10
LIVING PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:20

MONICA
1332 Second Street Santa Monica
LIFE UPSIDE DOWN
1:30 7:20
MAYBE I DO PG-13
1:20 4:20 7:30
THE SON PG-13
4:15 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13
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EO
4:30 PM
THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN R
1:10 7:00
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R
1:00 6:50
TÁR R
1:00 4:00 6:45
ARGENTINA, 1985 R
3:55 PM
THE QUIET EPIDEMIC
4:20 PM

TOWN CENTER
17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
THE MAN IN THE BASEMENT
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THE SON PG-13
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A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13
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LIVING PG-13
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THE FABELMANS PG-13
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THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN R
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NEWHALL
22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
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MISSING PG-13
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A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13
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LIVING PG-13
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PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG
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AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13
1:20 6:30
THE WHALE R
4:20 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13
1:00 PM
THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN R
7:10 PM

GLENDALE
207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
CONDOR'S NEST R
4:30 PM
INFINITY POOL R
1:00 4:00 7:00
KOMPROMAT *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;*
4:10 PM
CORSAGE *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;*
4:20 PM
LIVING PG-13
1:30 7:20
NO BEARS *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;*
1:20 7:10
ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED
1:00 PM
EO *SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH;*
7:30 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS
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CAIRO CONSPIRACY
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NoHo 7
5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
INFINITY POOL R
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WOMEN TALKING PG-13
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THE WHALE R
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THE FABELMANS PG-13
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FREE SKATE
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PETIT MAL
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CLAREMONT
450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13
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LIVING PG-13
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PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG
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THE FABELMANS PG-13
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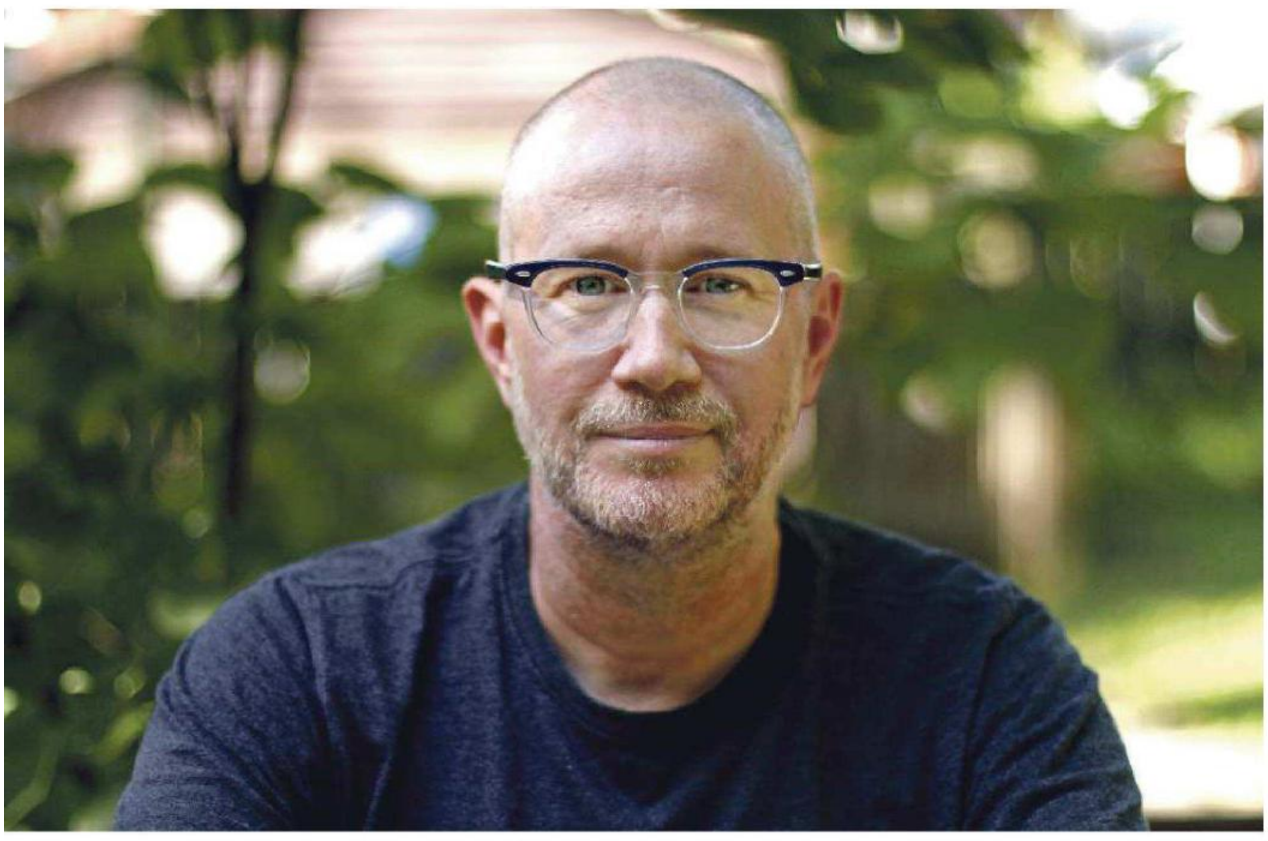

Jessica Baran

A practical dreamer? Paging Martin Riker

IN CONVERSATION WITH THE PUBLISHER-NOVELIST ON HOW FICTION CAN BE EXPERIMENTAL AND RIGOROUS AT ONCE

BY LYNN STEGER STRONG

IT'S DIFFICULT to talk with Martin Riker and not feel hopeful. Not so much about the world; both of us are likely too old to presume to know what might come of society, the planet, human beings. But talking with him, and reading his new novel, "The Guest Lecture," lit me up in thrilling ways about all the possibilities still alive — at least for books. ¶ Then again, books and life, ideas and the concrete, the imaginative and the practical, are not opposites for Riker or for his protagonist, Abby. "There's a William Carlos Williams quote," says Riker, speaking from his home in St. Louis, where he teaches writing at Washington University. "Something to the effect of, 'Only the imagination can save us'. … As a young man, I wanted to tattoo it on my arm. But I decided that it needs to mean something practical. It can't mean something just idealistic."

Images from Dorothy

MARTIN RIKER, top, calls Dorothy "the most important thing I do." Books, above, from the feminist press.

Riker has been walking that line for some time; few projects combine the imaginative and the practical as well as Dorothy, the micropublishing house he runs with his wife, novelist Danielle Dutton.

His first novel, "Samuel Johnson's Eternal Return," had a narrator whose consciousness moved helplessly among bodies as he searched for his lost son — imagine an existentialist "Quantum Leap."

But it's in "The Guest Lecture," his second novel, that the dialectic between fantasy and figures, consciousness and bodies, takes its most affecting form.

Abby is an economist, because in college a boy made fun of her for not being practical. But she is also an academic, because her affinity for the practical went only so far. Also a wife and mother (practical or idealistic?), she's recently been denied tenure. And she has been invited to an unnamed institution to give a lecture on John Maynard Keynes. "He embodies someone who has huge ideas," says Riker. "Really strange ideas, and actually was incredibly doggedly focused on making them practical."

Abby is feeling anxious, insomniac and unprepared. Her husband, Ed, has suggested to her that the best talks are the ones where the speaker "wings it." She finds this idea terrifying. But then Ed, both deeply charming and often ineffectual, has more advice. He suggests she use the loci method to remember her speech.

The method's origins are gruesome. Simonides of Ceos, "a poet who lived so long ago that he actually invented several Greek letters," felicitously avoided a roof collapse at a fancy party ("maybe he needed to pee"). As the sole survivor, he needed to identify the dead. So Simonides imagined himself moving through the rooms to name everyone he'd seen.

Abby therefore spends the night imagining her way through the various rooms of her own life, attempting to attach each beat of her speech to a recollected physical space.

This dreamscape becomes Riker's plot, as Abby not only visits memories but also consults with various thinkers. Keynes functions as both guide and heckler as she attempts to move through her speech.

Riker knows well the old adage of writing instruction: "Dreams have no stakes." He checked in with Dutton, asking: "Do you think I can just end this thing in a dream?" She laughed and said, "Go ahead!"

It makes an organic kind of sense here. Abby spends the whole night battling perhaps her greatest foe: her own brain. She has just lost tenure; Trump has been elected. One can't help but think throughout the novel of all those people crushed beneath the roof in the story of Simonides. But then, the book is also ebullient, lively, often very funny; Abby describes what's most important to her in writing as "the *life* inside the language," and this whole book is so gleefully, wondrously full of that life.

"What I actually think is Abby's most remarkable trait," says Riker, "is that she has a very creative, imaginative mind, and it's almost not something she's even aware of, the degree to which she's able to remake the chaos, remake the badness, and turn it into something that has liveliness."

One quote I thought of while we were talking is from Edgar, the falsely accused and only legitimate son of Gloucester in "King Lear": "the worst is not/ So long as we can say 'This is the worst.' " So long as we have language, a form through which to articulate our despair, to give the chaos shape, the worst is not yet here.

"One of the ways we think about playfulness with form is it's a way of dealing with the inarticulateness of experience," Riker says, "and the point of the playfulness is that you aren't just putting experience into the premade boxes that the literature has already put them into. … that's the difference between form and formula."

Although Riker has little interest in the formulaic or didactic, he considers literature a conversation above all else; he works in models, talks through other books. "Let me go to some other books," he says more than once during our conversation, which left me with a full-page list of books to read.

Riker came to writing through music and then independent publishing. Riker was a trombonist (and temp worker) in Manhattan, worked for Dalkey Archive Press in Illinois and met Dutton in Chicago. After a sojourn in Denver, where they both earned PhDs in English, the couple decided to start what Riker calls "the most important thing I do": Dorothy, a Publishing Project, a self-deemed feminist press that puts out two books a year.

It was Dutton's idea to build a space explicitly for female writers. Riker is very firm about her initiating it, though he feels "pretty sure the word 'project' was my idea." They have run it together from their home since 2009.

"One of the things I'm most proud of about Dorothy," Riker says, "is that it puts something into the world that has an ethical vision of what literature is and how it can be published in a way that maintains the ethics of conversation, but also it's practical and we make practical decisions."

The publishing schedule is a perfect example: Two books annually are all they can handle with care, but the pair is published simultaneously, meant to be in conversation with each other.

Dorothy has consistently put out excitingly fresh voices (not unlike Abby's): Sabrina Orah Mark, Nell Zink, Azareen Van der Vliet Oloomi, Renee Gladman, Amina Cain. They very recently started a partnership with New York Review Books that will expand their reach. What unites Riker's ventures in publishing and writing is "that balance," he says, between experiment and impact: "Thinking always about the forms and structures of the world, but not thinking about them just to blow them up. Thinking about: How can they be different, and how can that practically mean something in the world?"

Abby says, late in the book: "Uncertainty is a fact of life and an important part of what makes life lively. … Risk is the spirit of courage you bring to the things you care about."

If all books are models for those yet to be written, a drop of something into the larger conversation that might spur us on, there's something courage-giving about the fact that Riker is such an active member in that conversation and that "The Guest Lecture" is here to give the chaos its own specific form.

Strong is a critic and the author, most recently, of the novel "Want."

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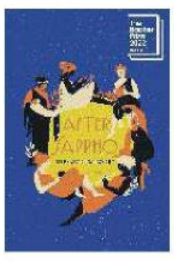
Selby Wynn Schwartz

SWERVES ACROSS FEMINIST HISTORY

THE KALEIDOSCOPIC 'AFTER SAPPHO' TURNS STAID NARRATIVES ON THEIR HEADS. BUT SOMETHING'S MISSING.

BY HILLARY KELLY

SELBY WYNN SCHWARTZ'S "After Sappho" has it out for linear narrative in a big way. Maybe narrative has never really served women anyway — has never properly told their stories or helped them write their own. Maybe, you think while reading this debut novel, it's payback time. ¶ "After Sappho," which was longlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize, feels like a Greek chorus' group chat, with voices that slide out of their identities and into new ones and stories that sputter out for chapters only to come roaring back. If I had to write its publicity copy, I'd call it a fictional collective biography of a real-life group of Sapphists — lesbians, yes, but more particularly spiritualists devoted to the famous but elusive ancient Greek poet whose work survives only in fragments — coupled with the political history of the women's movement in Italy. But that description has way too much solidity. The novel is diaphanous, celestial, disembodied — sometimes to its benefit, sometimes not.



Liveright

EARLY feminists' stories get a redo in Selby Wynn Schwartz's debut novel.

A thousand milquetoast histories might have been written from Schwartz's material, largely taken from the 1880s to the 1920s. Her loose group of characters includes writer and salon hostess Natalie Barney, painter Romaine Brooks, novelist and provocateur Radclyffe Hall, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan, famed actor Sarah Bernhardt, avant-garde architect Eileen Gray, anarcha-feminist Anna Kuliscioff and prima ballerina Ida Rubinstein.

"The first thing we did," the novel begins, "was change our names. We were going to be Sappho." Who is *we*? The nameless women who want to shed their strictures like snakeskins. The secretly educated women driven to needlework when what they want is to plunge a sharp point into a man's chest. The lesbians run underground by politicos bloviating about indecency. Anyone, really, who, in the collective narrator's opinion, "wanted what half the population had got just by being born." And what does it mean to be Sappho? For these women, to create fearlessly, live unencumbered and screw whomever they please.

If women's lib is commonly thought to have progressed in successive wavelets over the better part of a century, "After Sappho" wants to rewrite that linear story into a swirl — not waves but eddies. In the early 1880s, Leslie Stephen conceived two legacies: He began work on "The Dictionary of National Biography," a definitive timeline of nearly 30,000 eminent dead Brits. And he fathered Virginia Woolf, who would go on to unshackle the written word from the constraints of time. Schwartz's pseudo-history is an endorsement (and emulation) of the Woolfian experiment — "We believed Virginia Woolf was right about everything" — and an arrow aimed at Stephen's Victorian brain.

Woolf eventually makes her way into "After Sappho" (and livens it up a good deal), but only after the women gather and disperse, flee forced marriages and find heterosexual relationships of convenience, ad nauseam. In their youth, they recoil at the stories they've been told: "When we were children we learned what happened to girls in fables: eaten, married, lost. Then came our bouts of classical education, imparting to us the fates of women in ancient literature: betrayed, raped, cast out, driven mad in tongueless grief."

In adulthood, they gather to recite poetry in ivy-covered gardens, organize congresses for women's rights, retreat to Greek islands, begin and abandon manifestos and manuscripts and push themselves into the arenas of life, especially art and sex, that men have doggedly guarded. One of the primary things they want is "a century less muffled in fabric."

It's hard to write succinctly about work that staggers in so many directions. Midway through the novel, I was reaching into a grab bag of vibes. Schwartz adores "cerulean and azure swaths" of "open sea," the adjective "sibylline," fabrics like "almond-coloured velvet" and "rough linen," sunlight dappled by leaves. Sometimes her language is so overly lofty that I expected feathers to flutter out from between the pages.

The text swerves from breathy and adulatory to cutting and punky: "Marriage was fundamentally a humiliation of women"; "And will not the adequate critic of women be a woman?"; "We also longed for writing tables that were not in the kitchen." Schwartz's snappiest lines would fit on coffee mugs prized by middle-age moms as tokens of unexplored rebellion. Nevertheless, I nodded along.

The middle of "Sappho" goes soggy; the charm of its eddies wears thin. (Please, hit me with a big wave.) That is, until World War I comes along. By the narrators' telling, lesbians entered a miniature golden age, "a sleek, exuberant step forward," in the early 1910s. And then the men begin "their 'Great War': what a preposterous masculine fiction," further proof that the world they run keeps women at their bloody mercy.

Yet the killing fields of the Somme give the women something to define themselves against. ("Should the men of Europe be discontinued, they wondered?") They hustle art away from the men and begin to make it all about themselves. "Short pieces taken from life … Enough lyric poetry. Not another still life with flowers. More portraits of us." Is this the key to artistic equality? Self-portraiture?

Toward the novel's last pages, a sketch of an unexpected (but historically accurate) character appears. Berthe Cleyrergue cooked and cleaned for Barney and Brooks in Villa Trait d'Union, the house they shared in France. She observed their habits and neuroses: She "not only had all of her own lives to herself; she also saw straight through a dozen others." Cleyrergue, the narrators exclaim, "taught us that we had been wrong about housekeepers."

In 1980, Cleyrergue published a self-portrait of her own, documenting the exploits and personalities of the Sapphists she'd waited on and bonded with. When I can nab a copy in English, I'll be curious to find out whether Cleyrergue ever bore any resentment toward her employers, who needed her to pour their glasses of Kir, dust their Parisian townhouse and pass around their sandwiches. The housekeepers and maids, cooks and kitchen girls made the artistic pursuits of other women possible.

Women replaced other women in the kitchen. Now they replace them in daycare centers. There is always an underclass of women, and I wonder about the Berthes who didn't read Colette and couldn't leave behind written documentation of their lives.

They may be the fragments missing from Schwartz's homage to Sappho — this elusive, at times joyful and enveloping not-quite-novel. As Colette remarked about "La Naissance du Jour," a book she designated by no other descriptor than "feminine," "You may have sensed in this novel that the novel does not exist?" Is a novel what Schwartz wanted at all? A one-time-only performance piece in a grove of trees on Lesbos (followed by an orgy) might have suited her purposes better. Fleeting, immersive, surrounded by that dappled sunlight. I'd watch it.

Kelly's work has been published in New York Magazine, Vogue, the New York Times and elsewhere.

Under a fog of fussy writing, a compelling 'Eden' awaits

BY MARK ATHITAKIS

WHEN Paul Harding's novel "Tinkers" won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2010, it was a pleasant surprise on a variety of fronts. It was a debut book from a tiny nonprofit publisher funded by a hospital, and though Harding possessed a key element of the literary prizewinner's pedigree — an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop — the novel was sui generis and, frankly, weird. Its tale of the dying days of a New England clockmaker was knotty and morbid, but in a memorably lyrical, gentle way.

Whatever benefits have accrued to Harding since he won the Pulitzer, a following isn't one of them. He's inspired no school of American writers determined to spin melancholy, prose-poem-y fiction set in snowy New England. Still, Harding persisted, following up "Tinkers" with a well-turned, more conventional novel about a grieving father, 2013's "Enon." But with his third novel, "This Other Eden," some of the limitations of his approach are becoming obvious.

"Eden" is based on a true and grimly compelling story. In 1912, nearly 50 residents were forcibly expelled from Malaga Island, a square-mile speck of land off Maine that was home to a fishing community of African American and Irish settlers.

Stories of intermarriage, combined with old-fashioned racism and land-grab profiteering, prompted the state to evict the residents and send many of them to institutions. (In 2010, the Legislature issued a formal apology for its actions; the island is now uninhabited, managed by a nonprofit trust.)

Harding's spin on the Malaga Island tragedy, as the title suggests, is to bestow his characters with the gravitas of a Bible story.

Two original settlers, Benjamin and Patience, plant an apple orchard on the land, and their family weathers a storm fit for an ark: "The whole soaked clan clung together and to the trunk in a trembling, grasping cluster at the top of that swaying, bending, mighty old tree snapping back and forth in the wind like a whip."

By 1911, and the heart of the story, their great-granddaughter Esther is the island's matriarch, mindfully watching her family — including the son she had after her father raped her — and an eclectic cast of neighbors. A male shop owner greets customers in his mother's gingham dress. An elder named Zachary Hand to God Proverbs carves visualizations of Bible verses inside the hollow oak where he lives; another young girl, Rabbit, attends what passes for a school only long enough to gnaw on sticks of chalk and drink from an inkwell. A white outsider, Matthew Diamond, runs the school and delivers supplies but only halfheartedly supports his charges.

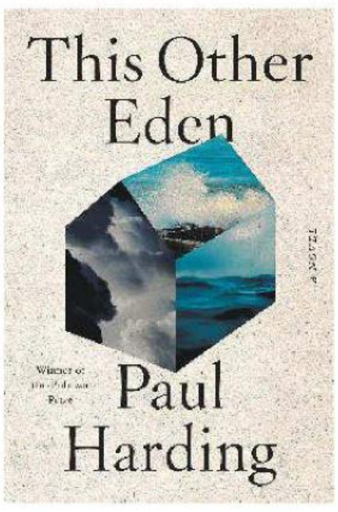
Or, more pointedly, he supports only the children who demonstrate conventional Western intelligence and capacity to assimilate. Chief among these is Esther's grandson Ethan, a talented artist. But Esther, framed by Harding as a prophet, sees only menace and doom behind Matthew's good intentions: "At the news there'd be a school and this Mr. Diamond would be with them every day during summers, she'd been certain there would not be a soul left on the island within five years."

"This Other Eden" is a short novel, but it's encumbered with all the symbolic import Harding strives to apply to it. At times, the book's language is charming in its elegance. Too often, though, it's fussed over, as if every syllable were held up with a jeweler's loupe and assessed for shine and heft. Overworked run-on sentences scamper across the pages: "this girl from over the ocean, so lovely, so kind to him, this dream, this strange dream, this huge, addled dream of a kingdom so far from Apple Island."

Attempting to enter the mind of the chalk-gobbling girl, Harding makes an aggressive shift into Faulkner mode: "Wish chalk tasted like white snaps when I bit white sticks or unhappy man clicks white sticks on black wall and makes white bugs and white chalk clicks…"

All manner of lilies are gilded, for all manner of purposes. Apparently inspired by a 1909 Harper's Magazine article that described the Malagans as "Queer Folk of the Maine Coast," Harding has Zachary riff on the word: "I'm queer for all the little queer creatures in the tide pools. I'm queer for the light when it breaks the horizon and queer for it when it sinks behind the trees." It's a brutalizing pile-on of rhetorical gambits — an anachronistic use of "queer" to stress the state's bigotry, a redundant assertion of residents' pride in their misfit status, a satire of the magazine story, a rhythm yanked straight from the pulpit.

This is all unfortunate, because it clouds the story's inherent dramas: patricide, assault, forced eviction, flooding, racism, pseudoscience. Underneath the fog of "This Other Eden" is a sensitive rendering of Ethan's coming of age, and the prose is as painterly as the art Ethan is making. But because Harding wishes to make Ethan part of a larger mythos, his character stiffens into the stuff of sermon or lecture.



Images from W.W. Norton

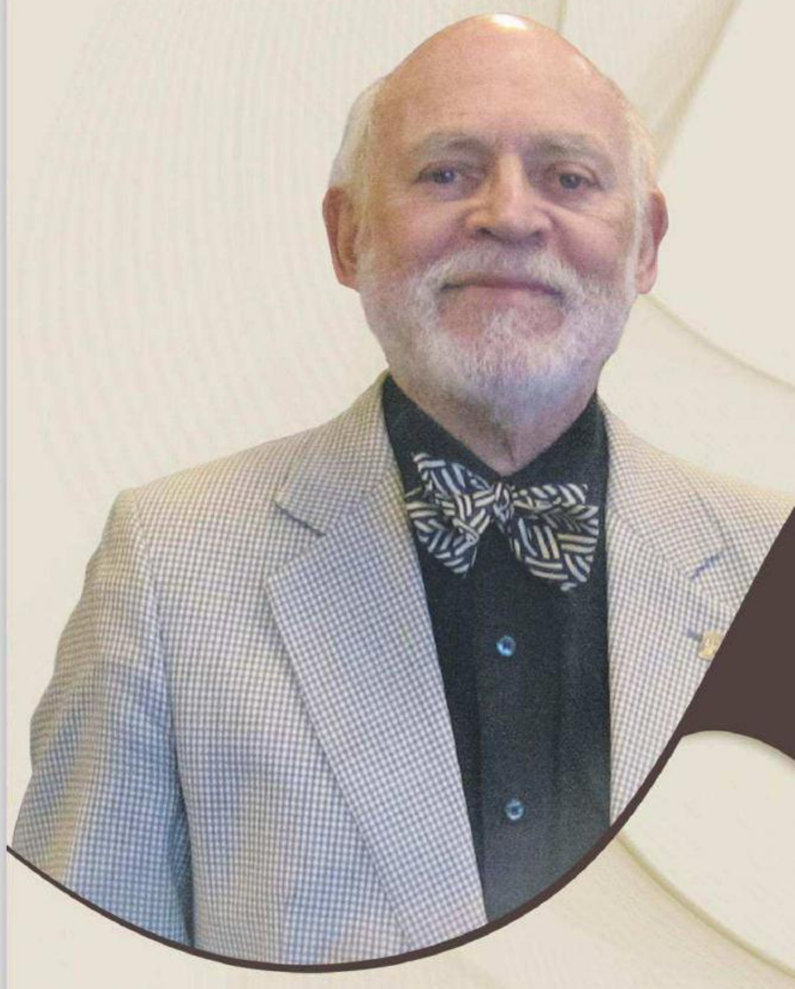
HARDING based "This Other Eden" on a grim, true tale of expulsion.

Though Harding isn't at the center of a particular literary movement, he does have a group of compatriots, hyper-precise wordsmiths who demand slow reading: Think of Toni Morrison, Ocean Vuong and, most prominently, Harding's mentor Marilynne Robinson — all brilliant at giving intimate stories an emotionally epic scope.

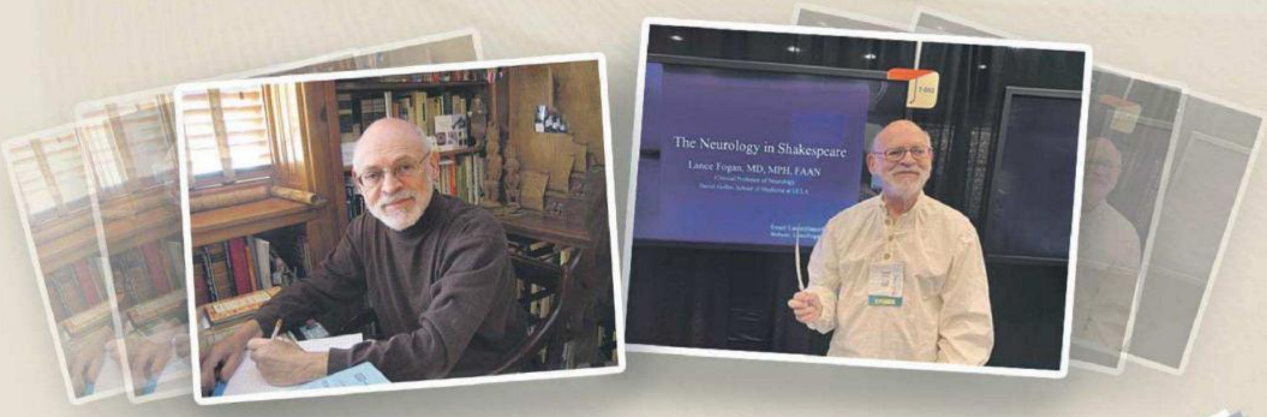
Harding has been knocking loudly on the door of that pantheon, and there's no reason why he might not eventually be invited inside; his focus on rural American life and outsiders, meshed with a unique lyricism, is welcome and rare.

But the hyper-precisionist's dilemma has always been sorting out how to blaze a new path linguistically within the confines of the domestic novel. Moving forward demands more than a pastiche of recycled rhetoric and ancient symbolism.

Athitakis is a writer in Phoenix and author of "The New Midwest."



Dr. Lance Fogan


The Neurology in Shakespeare
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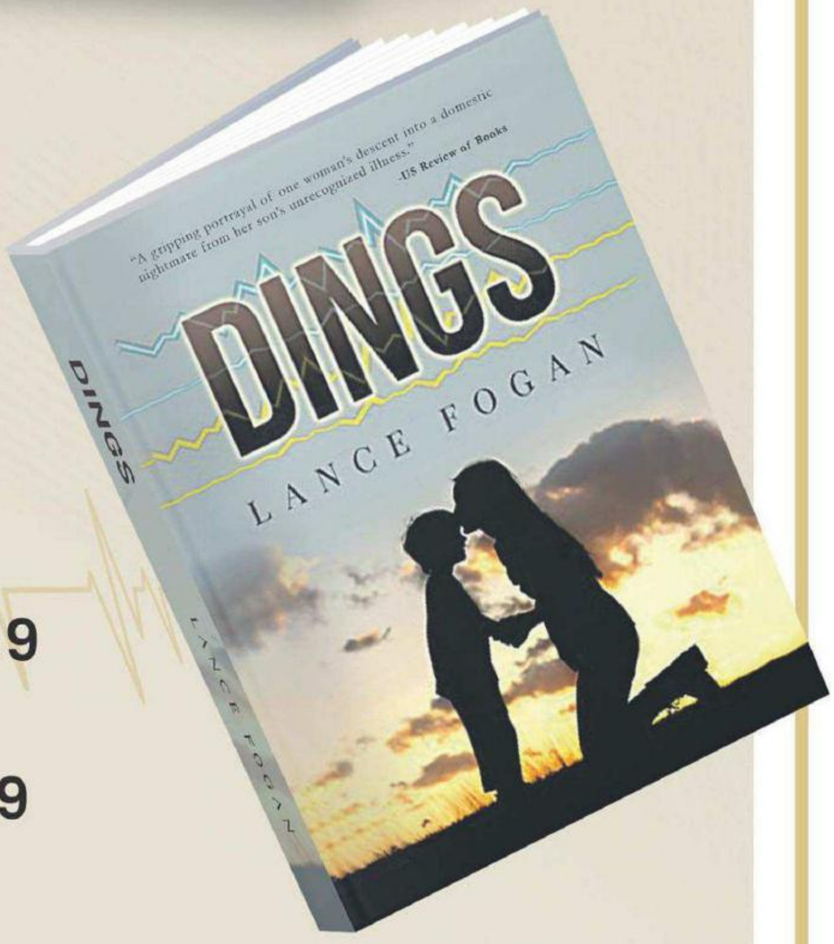
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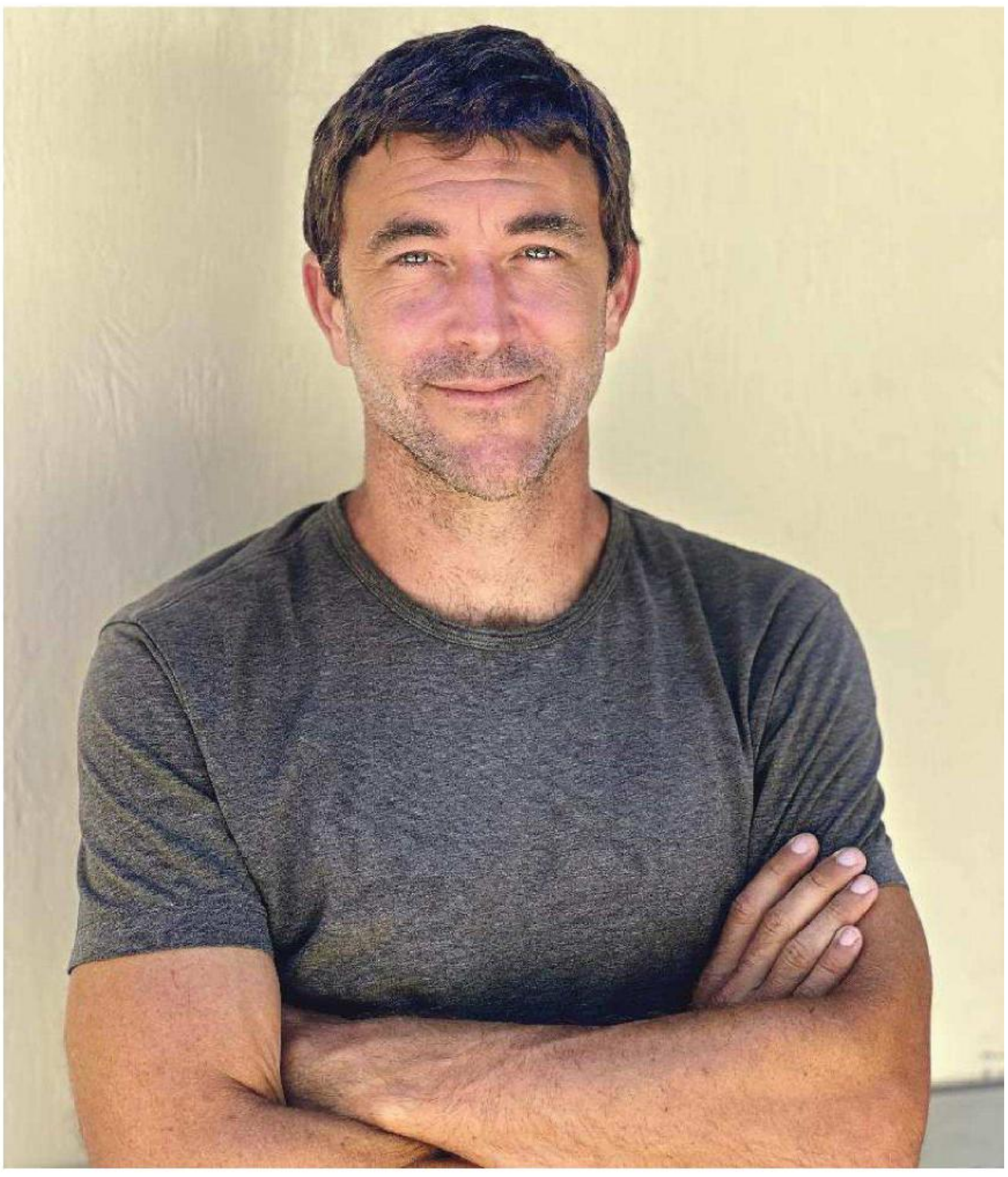
HEARTBREAK AND HOPE IN JUVENILE DETENTION

AUTHOR JEFF HOBBS WANTS PEOPLE TO KNOW HOW HARD IT IS FOR LOCKED-UP TEENS ‘TO COME OUT THE OTHER SIDE’

BY STUART MILLER



Rebecca Hobbs

CHILDREN OF THE STATE,” Jeff Hobbs’ new book about children caught up in the juvenile justice system, includes some history. There are some telling statistics and discussions of public policy. But ultimately, all of those are bit players: For Hobbs, whose “The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace” won a Los Angeles Times Book Prize, storytelling is about the people. So above all, this sensitively written book offers finely wrought portraits of the teenagers in juvenile hall, as well as the educators and counselors trying to help them find safe passage back to — and through — the real world. ¶ “When I’m doing the work, I focus on the small scale, on the individuals and the relationships,” Hobbs said by video from his home in Los Angeles. That was the approach he took with his book about Robert Peace, a bright young man from Newark, N.J., who managed to escape the streets and attend Yale but remained an outsider and was murdered at 30.

With “Children of the State,” Hobbs does zoom out to note that a quarter of a million kids serve in some form of detention each year: “The impact on their lives is deep and long term.” He knows some of these kids need to be locked up at least briefly — “if you pull a gun on someone there needs to be consequences” — but he believes passionately that their lives still have value, and he hopes to inspire readers to volunteer or advocate for or at least care about the children inside those closed-off buildings.

Hobbs’ narrative gets us inside the heads of his subjects in the depths of the night, when he clearly wasn’t there. “I always ask people about their emotions,” he explained. “I sometimes feel like I’m overstepping, but if you want to get readers to care about them you have to go there and get those details.”

“Children of the State” is divided into three sections, with Hobbs immersing himself in different programs around the country for seven months. In the first, at the only youth residential detention facility in Delaware, Hobbs focuses on the story of Josiah Wright, serving a one-year sentence for a violent crime.

The middle section, set in the Woodside Learning Center in San Francisco, emphasizes the educators, especially the principal, Chris Lanier, and one English language arts teacher, Megan Mercurio. Hobbs explores the ways the program strives to educate these children but also the toll it takes on the adults. “I was really surprised by the level of caring and investment in the classrooms, which causes a lot of burnout,” he said. “You really are close to tragedy in there.”

The final section focuses on the program Exalt Youth in New York, which keeps kids out of detention; they go to their own high school, then come to Exalt to learn life lessons and get paid internships that will help prepare them for the life available to them if they can stay out of trouble. Here, we are introduced to Ian Alvaro and the program’s teacher, Alex Griffith, who struggles to keep Ian moving forward.

Hobbs’ in-person research was interrupted by the pandemic; he continued following the stories but felt that the lockdown deprived him of the chance to focus as much as he’d planned to on the guards and counselors in all three facilities.

There is no sense of such limitations for the reader; we feel we are always in the room. There are scenes of heartbreak (a recent alum of one program is murdered soon after returning to the streets) and more everyday frustrations (given 30 minutes to write an essay, some students jot down a sentence or two while most leave their pages blank). But there are also just enough bright signs to justify the book’s subtitle, “Stories of Survival and Hope in the Juvenile Justice System.”

“Hope is a tricky word,” Hobbs acknowledged. “I certainly see it in these stories. Still, if you look at juvenile hall, it’s about the erasure of potential. I wanted to show how hard it is to come out the other side.”

For those teens who can respond, a good program with caring educators and counselors can be a “reset point,” Hobbs said. One teacher notes that for kids who attain their degrees in juvenile hall, or at least credits to finish high school afterward, even just doing OK by many societal standards amounts to a “spectacular” outcome.

Hobbs notes that nearly all the children who end up in juvenile hall are poor and from communities of color — and many of them are also weighed down by loss, violence and other traumas. As a result, Hobbs writes, they live in the present and are haunted by their pasts but can rarely envision their future.

“Some of these traits — not being able to look down the road, being told what to do by adults who don’t take your ideas seriously — are fairly universal for teenagers,” he says. But for students with trauma and not much support at home, it risks becoming a permanent condition. “There’s often a deep hopelessness about, ‘What’s out there for me after this?’ Kids in class are constantly muttering about that, so they might as well fight somebody or give the teacher a hard time.”

While Hobbs is reluctant to presume enough expertise to make prescriptions, he says these schools are badly understaffed and need more counselors. “It really did feel like the moments of progress happened when it was just a kid and a caring adult sitting across from them, looking them in the eye and listening,” he said.

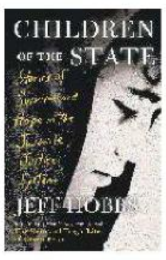
He believes state-funded programs that could guarantee vocational training and jobs for graduating students would help those kids envision that elusive future. That kind of support “is the major dream of many of the people I worked with for this book,” he said.

One reason he’s reluctant to prescribe is that he knows he’s an outsider, a privileged “white guy” whose children went to a preschool where even parents discussing timeouts prompted gasps. (“You’d get the stink eye for weeks,” he said.)

“I definitely cannot for a second say I am understanding anyone’s perspective here,” despite all the time he spent talking to his subjects, he said. He knows some may even insist these aren’t his stories to tell.

“I don’t have a clean answer to that because there isn’t one and I struggle with the question,” he said. He faced the same issue while writing the book about Robert Peace.

“One day I was driving around with a close friend of Rob’s nattering about this exact question,” Hobbs recalled. “We were at a stoplight and he said, ‘Jeff, I’m not going to give you permission, and I certainly can’t give you absolution. But if you’re listening, maybe I can help you understand. And then because you’re a white guy, maybe you can help other people understand.’ He was just trying to get me to shut up. But it’s what I hold onto as I do this work.”

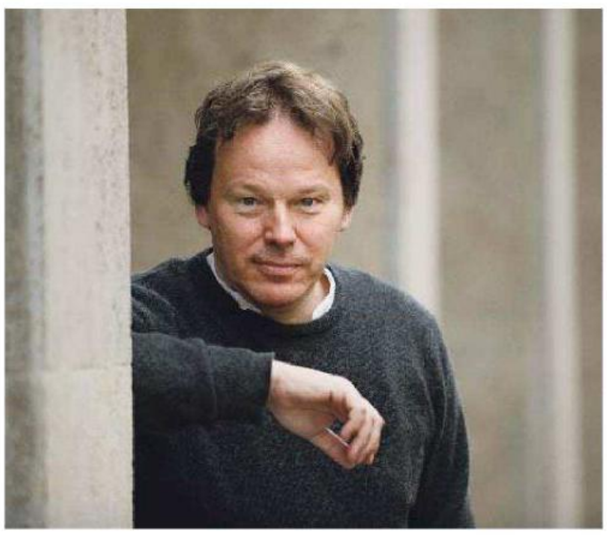


Scribner

JEFF HOBBS went inside youth facilities around the country for his new book.

A BURIED PIRATE TREASURE: DEMOCRACY

BY SAM DEAN



Marijan Murat

IN A PIRATE stronghold on the lush eastern shore of Madagascar, the child of a native-born sorceress and a roving buccaneer unites warring kingdoms, fends off a tyrant from the mountains and secures a long-lasting peace. In the hands of most historians and storytellers, this would be a straightforward tale of adventure and heroism in an exotic locale.

Not for David Graeber. In his book, “Pirate Enlightenment, or the Real Libertalia,” the point isn’t the swashbuckling — though some swashes do indeed buckle — but the real story of antiauthoritarianism, gendered economics and direct democracy behind a legendary 18th century pirate province. The bleeding edge of the Enlightenment’s democratic revolution, in this telling, wasn’t to be found in a Parisian guillotine but rather in the fragile consensus forged over long meetings on a distant island.

This is the second posthumous book by the anthropologist and anarchist social critic, who died suddenly at age 59 in 2020. In many ways it can be read as an addendum to 2021’s “The Dawn of Everything,” which Graeber co-wrote with archaeologist David Wengrow as a door-stopper argument against the pat story of civilization inexorably progressing from hunter-gatherer bands to hierarchical complex city-states, without any room for human ingenuity or experimentation.

The point of “Dawn” was not to argue for a new teleology or advance a single idea, in the style of Jared Diamond or Yuval Noah Harari, of how humans can live because of what came before. Rather, the book was a compendium of destabilizing alternatives, a dissertation on the fundamental constructedness of things, leading to the conclusion that what makes us human is the ability to imagine, talk and decide what we want to do together.

Graeber wielded history, anthropology and archaeology like an ax, hacking holes in the walls built up around us to show the reader vistas of other possible worlds. His earlier book, “Debt: The First 5000 Years,” which launched him from academia and leftist organizing to popular nonfiction shelves, synthesized millennia of economic history with a similar aim: to undermine the standard account of money, *homo economicus*. In “Bull—Jobs,” his 2018 book based on a viral essay, he probed the question of why so many of us seem to go to work only to do meaningless tasks we find detestable. Graeber plainly described his goal in that book’s introduction: “I would like this book to be an arrow aimed at the heart of our very civilization.”

“Pirate Enlightenment” began its life as a part of “On Kings,” an academic anthropology book Graeber published in 2017 based on his dissertation research in Madagascar conducted in the early ’90s. When he looked at his fieldwork again, he found the subject of the Zana-Malata, a distinct ethnic group descended from pirates, and the Betsimisaraka, the larger group whose name translates to “the many unsundered,” too interesting to limit to a chapter.

After the breakout success of “Dawn,” readers will likely come to this book as a kind of expansion pack to the earlier work — and in some ways, it fits the mold. The pith of the argument is that the Zana-Malata son of a pirate, Tom Ratsimilaho, has been incorrectly portrayed as a European civilizer of the Madagascar coast. Instead, Graeber writes, this historical figure mixed pirate and Malagasy forms of democracy to create a period of peace without slavery, coercion, or (much) hierarchy.

It’s hard to avoid the sense that Graeber might have produced a different book had he been alive to see it published. In his most popular works, Graeber developed a freewheeling, conversational style. He zeroed in on individual stories and specific personalities at length, but took care (for the most part) to ensure the reader knew why we were delving into grain distribution rituals of Sumerian city-states or the contrasting work cultures of neighboring indigenous Northern Californian tribes. No matter how closely he invited us to peer at the trees, we still had a sense of Graeber’s forest.

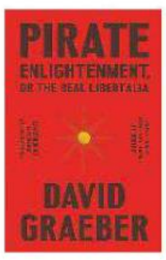
Critics of “Debt” and “Dawn” found fault with that chatty style, which sometimes elided factual errors or made rhetorical leaps that wouldn’t pass muster in academic peer review. Graeber occasionally pointed out a blank space in the historical record, which the prevailing wisdom had filled with ideology and myth, only to fill in that space with his own tenuous counterstory.

But boy, was that story compelling. Graeber had mastered the art of pulling new research out of his home field and contextualizing it for the lay reader. If it took 100 pages to summarize decades of intellectual debate and discovery about hunter-gatherer societies to make a point, then that’s how long it was going to take — and the conclusion was all the more satisfying for the legwork it took to get there.

“Pirate Enlightenment” could have used more of that expansive style and less minute detail arguing against the established scholarship. It is interesting, for example, that the descendants of pirates came to replace an earlier, possibly Jewish caste of ritual cattle slaughterers, but it’s difficult to connect that with the thesis of tracing the early Enlightenment to the western Indian Ocean. You can see the forest through the trees if you squint, but the book hews much closer to its origins as an academic text.

In the spirit of Graeber’s utopian thinking, it’s easy to imagine a slightly different book as a fun stinger to Graeber’s popular career — one that fits the Madagascar material into the tales of pirates as proletarian rebels against imperial capital, building outlaw republics on Caribbean isles. Those are stories that other scholars and popular writers have told, but I would have loved to read Graeber’s kaleidoscopic, ornery, optimistic take on the full span of skull-and-crossbones history.

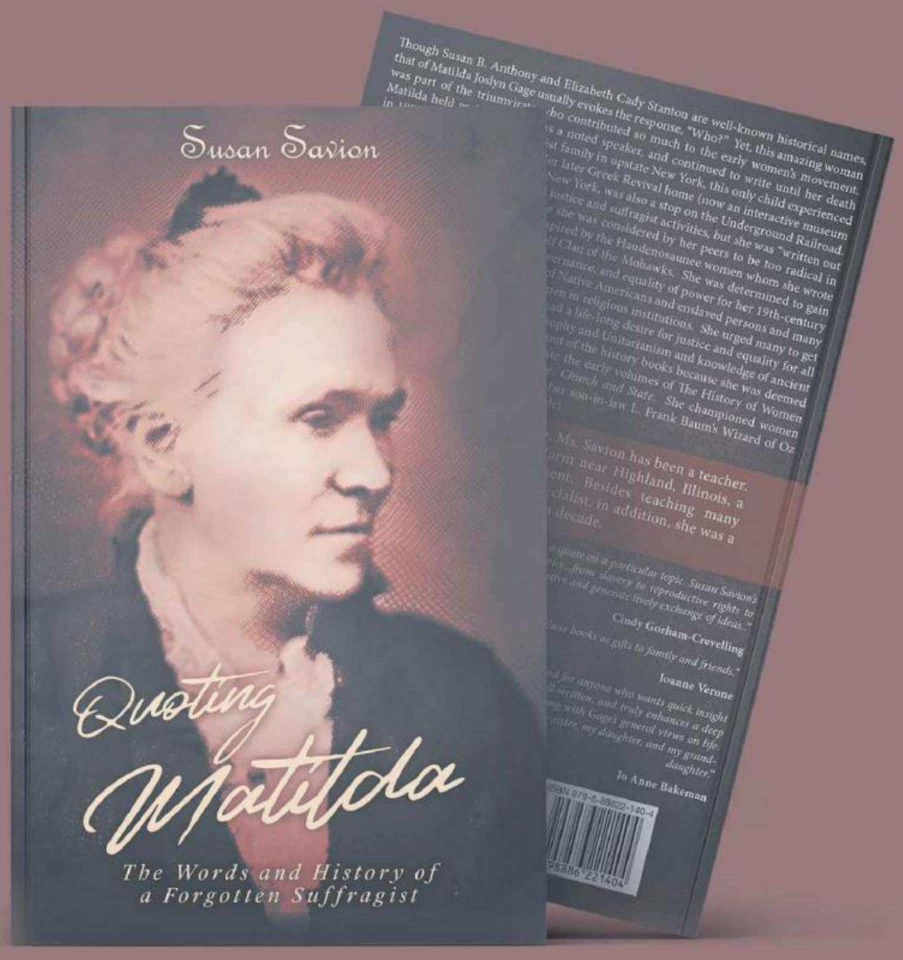
Flashes of that larger story do shine through, and the book advances Graeber’s mission: to destabilize our idea of what’s possible and show that humans can, and often do, create egalitarian worlds built on points of consensus instead of the sharp end of a cutlass.



Farrar, Straus & Giroux

DAVID GRAEBER explores a period of peace and freedom in 18th century Madagascar.

Susan Savion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Quoting Matilda
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Quoting Matilda: The Words and History of a Forgotten Suffragist by Susan Savion is an account of Matilda's many accomplishments and influence on the women's suffrage movement. Matilda always had a sense of equality for all but she was often deemed to be too radical, as she was way ahead of her times. She even had a big influence on her son-in-law L. Frank Baum. Many of her perceptions appear in The Wizard of Oz books. Savion brings to light Gage's enormous contributions until her death in 1898. Through Savion's book, Matilda is written into history and given the recognition she deserves.

Matilda Joslyn Gage was born into an abolitionist family. Her role in the women's suffrage movement is a fascinating historical read. Readers will be pleasantly amazed as Susan Savion brings this historical gem to life through immense research and exquisite narration.

The book reflects the history and culture of the times and gives insights and actions taken by Matilda. She also narrates how relevant and impactful Matilda's views are in the current global setting. More than that, the book reflects Susan Savion's passion for the historical figure and her work.

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10. **Stella Maris** by Cormac McCarthy (Knopf: $26) A coda of sorts to "The Passenger."	7

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5. **The Light We Carry** by Michelle Obama (Crown: $33) A practical self-help book from the former first lady.	10
6. **The Song of the Cell** by Siddhartha Mukherjee (Scribner: $33) The medical researcher explores the science of cells.	11
7. **The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse** by Charlie Mackesy (HarperOne: $23) A fable explores life's universal lessons.	1
8. **Smitten Kitchen Keepers** by Deb Perelman (Knopf: $35) A cookbook from the author-podcaster.	5
9. **Crying in H Mart** by Michelle Zauner (Knopf: $27) A memoir from the Korean-born singer-songwriter.	88
10. **Atomic Habits** by James Clear (Avery: $27) A guide to building good habits.	44

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Letters: Submissions are subject to editing for space and content considerations.

TV THIS WEEK

By Matt Cooper

SUNDAY

NFC Championship and AFC Championship (Fox, noon; CBS, 3:30 p.m.): The Eagles face the 49ers, then the Chiefs battle the Bengals.

"Vacation Home Nightmare" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): A woman finds her short-term rental comes with potentially lethal consequences in this thriller.

"90 Day Fiancé: The Other Way" (TLC, 8 p.m.): This entry in the reality franchise returns for a fourth season.

MONDAY

"The Watchful Eye" (Freeform, 9 and 10 p.m.): A young woman (Mariel Molino) works as a live-in nanny for a wealthy family in this new Manhattan-set mystery drama.

"Independent Lens" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): The new episode "The Picture Taker" profiles Ernest Withers, a Black photographer who documented the civil rights movement while also working as an informant for the FBI.

TUESDAY

"Breathless" (TCM, 5 p.m.): French New Wave icon Jean-Luc Godard is remembered with a mini-marathon that includes the director's influential 1960 crime drama.

"Finding Your Roots With Henry Louis Gates Jr." (KOCE, 8 p.m.): Viola Davis and Brian Cox shake their family trees.

"Fight the Power: How Hip Hop Changed the World" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): This new four-part series charts the rise of that musical genre.

"Frontline" (KOCE, 10 p.m.): The new episode "Putin and the Presidents" explores the Russian leader's often contentious dealings with his American counterparts.

WEDNESDAY

"Schoolhouse Rock! 50th Anniversary Singalong" (ABC, 8 p.m.): Famous faces lend their voices to this celebration of the beloved 1970s-era animated educational series.

Kailey Schwerman Freeform

MARIEL MOLINO in "The Watchful Eye."

"Nova" (KOCE, 9 p.m.): They've been working on the railroad, all the livelong day, in the episode "London Super Tunnel."

"The Ark" (Syfy, 10 p.m.): It's not exactly smooth sailing for the crew of a damaged spaceship on a mission to find a new home for humanity in this new sci-fi drama.

THURSDAY

2023 Pro Bowl Games (ESPN, 4 p.m.; concludes Sun.): The NFL's annual contest expands to include skills challenges and flag-football games.

FRIDAY

"Stand" (Showtime, 9 p.m.): This new sports doc profiles former NBA star Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, who made headlines for his controversial stance on not standing for the national anthem.

SATURDAY

"Sweeter Than Chocolate" (Hallmark, 8 p.m.): A bakery owner hooks up with a hunky TV reporter in this new TV movie.

"Gwen Shamblin: Starving for Salvation" (Lifetime, 8 p.m.): "Dirty Dancing's" Jennifer Grey portrays the controversial megachurch pastor/diet guru in this new fact-based TV movie.

"Say Yes to the Dress" (TLC, 8 p.m.): Got gowns? They sure do as the matrimonially-minded reality series returns for a 22nd season.

FEEDBACK

A fun time at 'Court'

Thank you for Robert Lloyd's excellent review of the revivals "Night Court" and "That '90s Show" ["In With the New, and the Old Too," Jan. 18].

The opening segment of "Night Court" with John Larroquette as a process server was wonderful entertainment and so well written.

Three-camera television shows are so worth it. Thank you for Lloyd's excellent writing.

Mary C. Schaffer
Woodland Hills

Wrong focus in 'Rust' case

Regarding " 'Rust' Charges Rattle Actors" [Jan. 23]: My heart breaks for Halyna Hutchison and her family. It also aches for Alec Baldwin and his family.

I feel that the D.A. in New Mexico is promoting the deeply flawed concept that, "Guns don't kill people. People kill people." Very pro-NRA. I think there is a more important need to focus on the fact that guns do kill people.

Baldwin is yet another victim of this accident, along with director Joel Souza. Forever damaged by this and now a felony trial.

Ava Lerner Wooton
Sherman Oaks

Princely perspective

Regarding " 'Spare' Is Merciless, but Short of Enough" [Jan. 17]: I would like to congratulate Meredith Blake for doing exactly what a book writer should do: help a reader decide whether they want to read a particular book.

With all the hype surrounding "Spare," Blake's commentary does a superb job of putting the book into clear and meaningful perspective. I personally find Harry supremely likable but, as a psychologist, I nod to Blake's analysis and conclude that Harry has yet to discern the forest from the trees.

On that basis, I am going to wait for Harry's second book where he tackles the dysfunctionalism of monarchism as the ultimate root of his difficulties.

Harry, I'm really rooting for you to become an American in its best sense.

Bryant Crouse
Los Angeles

It was indeed worth a trip

Because of a review in last week's Calendar section ["His 'Eisenhower' Worth the Field Trip" Jan. 16], we went to see the production of "Eisenhower."

Thank you, it was outstanding. From the history lesson, to the insight of an earnest, sincere man, to exceptional acting by John Rubinstein, it was so well done.

If it had not been for that review, it could have been overlooked.

Teri Kennady
Newport Beach

FOR THE RECORD

"Real Housewives": An article on the "Real Housewives" franchise in the Jan. 22 section said that Kristen Warner is an associate professor at the University of Alabama. Warner is at Cornell University. It also listed Racquel Gates as an associate professor at the CUNY College of Staten Island. Gates is at Columbia University.

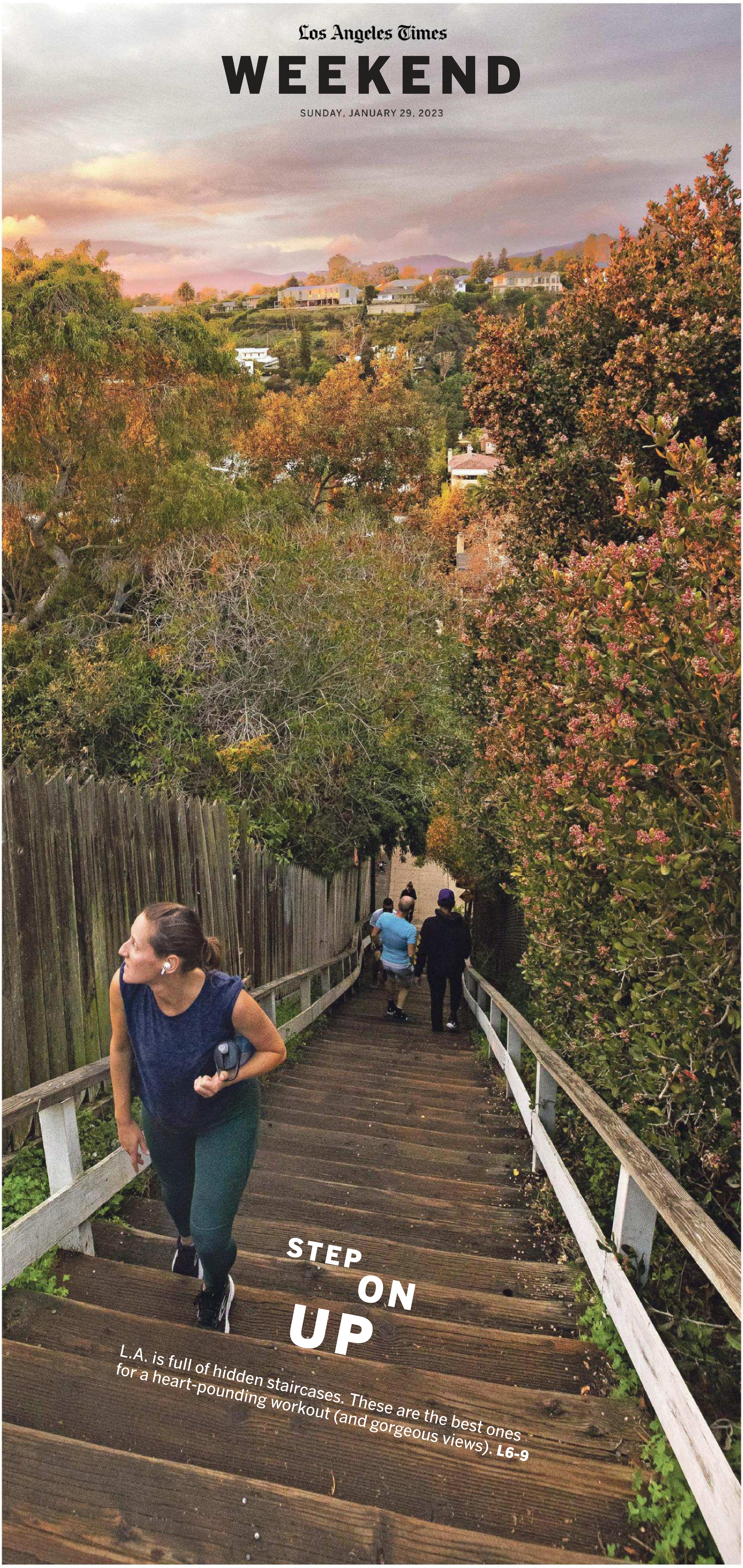
Los Angeles Times STUDIO
Presented by SAPPHIRE

IT'S A WRAP AT THIS YEAR'S SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

We thank all the filmmakers, actors and actresses who popped into our studio at the Festival.

To view photos, watch videos and read stories, scan the QR code or visit latimes.com/Sundance.

Los Angeles Times
WEEKEND
SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023



STEP ON UP

L.A. is full of hidden staircases. These are the best ones for a heart-pounding workout (and gorgeous views). **L6-9**

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

THE HOTTEST COLD CUT IN L.A.

IT'S A MORTADELLA MOMENT AS THE SAUSAGE THAT INSPIRED BOLOGNA TURNS UP EVERYWHERE, EVEN IN COCKTAILS

BY STEPHANIE BREIJO

MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

LA MORTAZZA, left, and its creator, Mother Wolf's Evan Funke. Voodoo Vin, bottom left, and Happy Mediums Deli are making their mortadella in-house.

ROUNDS OF SLICED-THIN, pink, white-speckled mortadella are popping up on sandwiches, on charcuterie plates and even in the occasional cocktail in Los Angeles, but it's hard to view any food item depicted in ancient Roman carvings as a flash in the pan. The Italian deli meat that traces its roots to Bologna and as far back as the Etruscans isn't new, but of late it's been gaining the kind of star power that salami and prosciutto have hogged for too long. ¶ At Grandmaster Recorders the aromatic deli meat is served as a composed plate, draped gently around piping hot, freshly fried cacio e pepe-flavored zeppole all buried under freshly grated pecorino. At Pizzeria Bianco, it takes sandwich form on a round of focaccia with goat cheese and arugula, while La Sorted's showcases the thin slices on even fluffier focaccia with burrata and a slick of slightly sweet pistachio cream. It's served as an option on the cured-meat plate at Capri Club, a new addition to the best bars in L.A., and cocktail bar Thunderbolt even recently experimented with crafting a cocktail employing the deli meat, creating an old-fashioned that featured mortadella-washed bourbon.

To Felix and Mother Wolf chef Evan Funke, mortadella's time was long overdue. "I f—ing love mortadella," he says. "Mortadella *is* the moment, always has been. I think it's one of the most underrated salumi to come out of anywhere in the world; it's underutilized, underappreciated, super versatile, and I think it's the best, so I love that it's getting a little bit of traction."

Mortadella — a popular cold cut throughout Italy for centuries — is making meaty waves in the U.S., where a maligned derivative, bologna, lacks the nuance in texture and flavor of its inspiration. A blend of pork cuts and fat, originally ground together in a mortar in the Emilia-Romagna region, mortadella is essentially a large cooked pork sausage spiced with myrtle, garlic and pepper. In 1998, it received its own Protected Geographical Indication — meaning its ingredients and methods must adhere to a strict set of criteria to be considered authentically regional. L.A. chefs and diners have taken note of the appeal of mortadella.

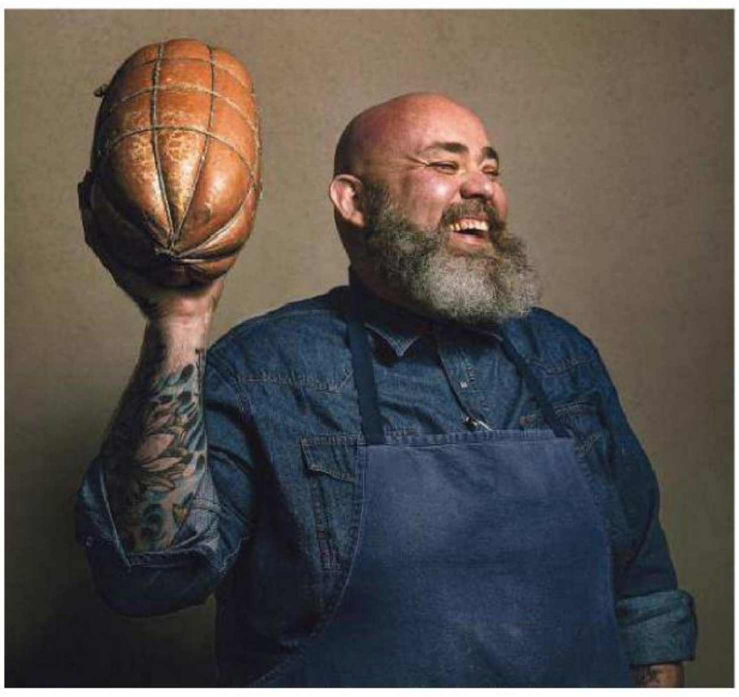
At Mother Wolf, Funke features mortadella made by Verona-based Leoncini, which adheres to the PGI, on La Mortazza: a kind of inverted Napolitano pizza dough that results in a pillowy interior and a lightly crisp exterior. It forms an almost sandwich-like base for mortadella, which ribbons out in folds along the edge, and for lemon-scented ricotta, drizzled with lemon agrumato, sprinkled with cracked black pepper and scattered with pistachios.

When the chef moved to Bologna in 2007, the extent of his knowledge was that mortadella could be found in the Godmother sandwich at Bay Cities. That year marked the first time that he tasted mortadella di Bologna, which doesn't include pistachios (a more modern addition — and an unwelcome one by a wide sect of mortadella purists).

Once, while training with Alessandra Spisni at the School of Sfoglia Bolognese Traditional Cuisine, Funke saw her vendor send mortadella studded with pistachios; the chef-instructor immediately called upon all the saints in heaven and cursed her vendor. She was so mad, Funke says, she immediately sent it back and said, "This is not mortadella, it has pistachios in it. That's Sicilian."

While some skew traditionalist, mortadella's variances have been embraced across continents, giving the meat even more audience as it made its way into a range of cultures. Late 19th century Italian immigrants in Brazil made mortadella a staple for pockets of South America, later proving a childhood mainstay of restaurateur John Borghetti, co-owner of Los Feliz's Nossa Caipirinha Bar. Last summer Borghetti informed chef-partner Rory Cameron that he regularly ate mortadella sandwiches when growing up in Brazil, and Cameron knew he wanted to add one to the new bar's menu.

Cameron tasted four or five varieties of mortadella, ordering whole, deli-sized tubes at a time, and landed on maker Fra'Mani in Berkeley. It's served on a locally made, toasted Homeboy Industries bun and gets topped with burrata.



MEL MELCON Los Angeles Times

Biquinho peppers and their juice are incorporated into mayo that's slicked over the bun, while chopped guindilla peppers form a kind of slaw for crunch.

That cross-cultural appeal is a benefit for Travis Hayden, one of the few chefs in Los Angeles making his own mortadella.

"You find it in Brazil, or Portugal has a version of it, or France or throughout Italy," he says, "which is nice because it gives me some leeway."

At Virgil Village wine bar Voodoo Vin, Hayden drapes several slices over one another on a plate, pistachios and fat on full display, brightened by whatever pickled peppers he's sourced from the farmers market. The recipe is always evolving but is now roughly one year in progress and often involves splashes of dry white wine and spices such as nutmeg, coriander and mace.

Hayden began with small batches. Then he needed to scale up. At first, one of his larger batches would last three weeks. Now he makes a large loaf roughly once a week — weighing in at around eight pounds — but he runs through it in just four or five days.

"People have started talking about mortadella," Hayden says. "It's like the tinned fish of charcuterie." Some nights nearly every table orders the mortadella, despite multiple other varieties of house charcuterie also being available.

It takes Hayden about eight hours to prepare mortadella: He weighs out and either grinds or slices pork shoulder and fatback, all from heritage-breed pig farm Peads & Barnetts. He blanches the pistachios, then peels them from their casing by hand, which takes about an hour and a half. He measures out the wine and dry components, readying his station and finally setting his high-powered mixer in motion.

He begins by emulsifying the pork meat, adding the garlic and wine. Then come the aromatics and spices, the milk powder and the fat. He pauses occasionally to take its temperature, ensuring his emulsification won't break. The more the blades spin, the hotter it gets; he adds ice, little by little, as the temperature climbs. As it spins, the emulsification turns from a bright pink to a creamy white and forms a kind of paste; it's emptied into a large metal bowl, where he folds in the fat cubes and blanched pistachios.

Hayden unveils a large metal contraption to compress the sausage into the casing, where an airlock at one end pushes the air out, while an attached tube at the other extrudes the meat into the synthetic casing. Without use of a full kitchen, he cooks the mortadella in a water-filled catering pan atop portable electric burners, slowly bringing the temperature up, then hangs it in the refrigerator for three days before it's ready for the wine bar's customers.

Shea Montanez, who refers to it as "kind of the next prosciutto frontier," has gone through years of trial and error. The chef and co-owner of pop-up Happy Mediums Deli cut his teeth on charcuterie making during his time at Chicago's Sepia. He gravitates toward mortadella due to its nostalgic nature, harking back to the old-school delis his grandma used to bring him to as a child.

At Happy Mediums — where he and his partner, Bonnie Hernandez, serve cheffy spins on classic sandwiches, soups, dips and other deli fare — he says his method is constantly developing. He grinds pork shoulder and fatback separately, so that the blend is fine, then adds spices such as mace, cinnamon, black pepper, garlic and cayenne. It's served sliced thick on the McDuffuletta, the pop-up's signature sandwich, along with house-made porchetta di testa and salami (the latter not made by Montanez).

Chef Samuel Schiffer's been tracking the popularity boom of mortadella not only because he serves it in sandwich form at Pasadena shop Semolina Artisanal Pasta but because people have begun paying him for bright pink hats emblazoned with the word.

In early 2022 he co-founded pasta-focused apparel brand Mister Parmesan, and in August launched the "mortadella" hat in collaboration with illustrator Marianna Fierro. "The people who know, know," he says. "The people who have mortadella inside of them already, whether figuratively or literally, you see people's eyes light up unbelievably." He's jokingly started calling it "mortadellacore," as if a kind of lifestyle.

For Semolina's sandwich, a citrusy pistachio aillade riff on a Suzanne Goin recipe is used to play up the pistachios in the Olympia Provisions mortadella. It's served on a Bub and Grandma's baguette with stracciatella cheese.

"As our regional Italian-food culture has become much more robust and more thoughtful, it's that desire to be able to introduce people to something that might be unfamiliar," Semolina owner Leah Ferrazzani says. "It's a combination, to me, of: A bunch of East Coasters moved here in COVID, and then you have these chefs wanting to push the limit — it's not particularly expensive so it's not something that's a huge risk financially, but it offers a lot in complexity and flavor and texture that you can play around with."

As with any trend, no one can predict where the growing ubiquity of mortadella will lead. (Ferrazzani, at least, is waiting for guanciale have its mortadella moment — again.) Wherever it does, call it a phase with 1,000 years of global staying power, call it a flash in the pan or call it "mortadellacore" — just so long as you don't call it bologna.

JASON ARMOND Los Angeles Times

STEPHANIE BREIJO Los Angeles Times

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DISCOVER HEAVEN BETWEEN TWO PIECES OF BREAD

FROM EAST COAST-STYLE DELIS TO ISRAELI-INSPIRED SABICH, THE BEST OF L.A.'S RISING SANDWICH SCENE

BY BILL ADDISON RESTAURANT CRITIC

SANDWICHES ARE LIKE one of the year's best picture Oscar contenders: Everything, everywhere, all at once. Within a recent 24-hour span, I admired the contrast of soft-scrambled eggs and spicy-sweet fried chicken on a brunch sandwich at Distrito Catorce, where Jonathan Perez has his Macheen residency, and debated on a rainy night whether I liked the chicken parm or meatball parm more at the new Ggiata location in West Hollywood. I thought then that it made sense to push myself into looking for more newish sandwiches, from freshly minted operations to the latest creations from places that have been settling in for a year or two. ¶ What did I find? A reminder that the universal medium of sandwiches helped the food industry refocus and reinvent itself in the pandemic afterquakes. And that, as always, sandwiches are windows into the nostalgic past (New Jersey and New York deli inspiration emerged as a recurring theme) and foundations for original creative expression. These are nine new favorites.

The Spicy P at Ggiata

Max Bahramipour, Jack Biebel and Noah Holton-Raphael — three friends who grew up in Montclair, N.J. — began a delivery business in 2020 making sandwiches that channeled their collective nostalgia for the Italian delis they loved as kids. Ggiata opened its first small storefront in the Melrose Hill section of Hollywood in 2021; in November, the partners opened a second, slightly larger location in the West Hollywood space originally occupied by Irv's Burgers. Sandwiches run the gamut of Italian American flavors you'd hunger for during a multiseason binge of "The Sopranos": prosciutto, pesto, meatballs, roasted red peppers, red wine and balsamic vinaigrette, tomatoes in every imagined form. There are two versions of chicken parm on seeded baguette.

I lean to the one covered in spicy vodka sauce, which adds a ripple of heat, but its splash of cream nicely mellows the pesto and grated Romano. I should also mention the Turk, a creation of herbed roast turkey, Swiss, bacon, sliced tomato and avocado on ciabatta. I took it home and heated it (minus shredded lettuce) for lunch the next day, and it was excellent, with a pleasant, nondisruptive sweetness that came from mostarda and Duke's mayo.

● *7998 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, ggiata.com*

Mozzarella at Bread Head

Jordan Snyder and Alex Williams cooked at Trois Mec, helping Ludo Lefebvre pull off combinations like honey-lacquered duck sauced in squid ink and foie gras butter and served over shiso-scented eggplant. Creating odd, ultimately appealing mashups is a skill that translates winningly to sandwiches. Trois Mec closed in July 2020, and a year later, Snyder and Williams debuted Bread Head, a sandwich pop-up centered on a recipe they developed for lofty, crisp-soft focaccia. The pair plan to open their first stand-alone Bread Head location in 2023, but they currently serve sandwiches on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at JuneShine, a high-design hard kombucha bar in — where else? — Santa Monica. They frequently rotate specials (I hope they bring back the riff on Philly-style roast pork with rapini), but a consistent favorite is simply called "Mozzarella." Lobes of fresh cheese form the base for ripe sliced avocado and an opulently thick za'atar spread. Alfalfa sprouts are among the most tired of the California culinary cliches, but here their rustling crunch is the exact right foil to balance the creaminess of the other star ingredients. Pickled onions cut the richness too.

● *2914 Main St., Santa Monica, breadheadla.com*

Chopped cheese at Bodega Park

Chopped cheese — often shortened to "chop cheese" — is a sandwich most strongly associated with an East Harlem deli that currently operates under the name Blue Sky but has been informally known as Haji's for years. A burger patty hits the griddle and, as it sizzles, a cook minces the meat with onions and cheese into a rubbly, half-molten hash. It lands on a hero roll, dressed with the usual burger trimmings. Kevin Park draws on memories of his days in New York and does the chopped cheese proud. It's listed on the morning menu of his daytime restaurant and coffee shop but stands its ground among soppressata on baguette with fontina and artichokes and other Italian-inflected sandwiches. Park has operated in the same Silver Lake space for a decade; he and his wife, Miriam, briefly switched to serving poke bowls and other Hawaiian-inspired foods during the pandemic before veering back to sandwiches, versions of which he'd served under his Black Hogg business umbrella. This is for a different list, but heads up that Bodega Park's breakfast burrito filled with grilled chicken marinated in aji amarillo is superb.

● *2852 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, bodegapark.la*

Tuna at Bub and Grandma's

I am generally not a fan of iceberg lettuce on sandwiches (its watery crunch wheedles into every bite; I'd rather eat a wedge salad separately), nor of the metallic fishiness of tuna salad. The tuna sandwich at Andy Kadin's breakfast and lunch restaurant is an all-around exception. Note its side profile to admire the structural masterminding by chef Zach Jarrett. The hunk of lettuce acts as box springs for the yielding bed of tuna salad.

Spears of red onion and thinly sliced bread-and-butter pickles bring in extra crunch and crucial sharpness in flavor. Homemade mayo makes an honest, velvety difference in the dilled tuna. Toasted brioche provides the framework. This is but one reason to love Bub and Grandma's, a name that has been synonymous with arguably the finest bread in Los Angeles for the last half-decade. After beginning his wholesale business in 2015, Kadin

Fried chicken at Macheen/Distrito Catorce

At Deysi Serrano's Milpa Grille in Boyle Heights, Jonathan Perez continues his weekday taqueria residency, serving sculptural tacos and some of the most precisely engineered breakfast burritos in the city. In the fall, Perez began a second collaboration a mile away at Distrito Catorce, a restaurant and bar with a stunning view of downtown on its block of 1st Street. Perez ventures into brunch territory here; the menu includes horchata French toast and a burger smothered in truffle gravy. I'm here for the fried chicken sandwich; the bird glosses in a mix of honey and salsa macha, crowned with cheesy soft-scrambled eggs and perched on a bun spread with garlic aioli. It rouses the taste buds, and a cafe de olla from Cafe Cafe Mobile, which also serves coffee at Milpa Grille, will wake you up the rest of the way.

● *1837 1st St., Los Angeles, (323) 354-4548, instagram.com/eldistrito14*

The French Philly at Maciel's Plant-Based Butcher and Deli

The menu is full of words like turkey, pastrami, salami, tuna and crab cakes, but the dishes conceived by Maciel Bañales Luna are entirely vegan. With an education in nutrition and health sciences, Bañales Luna was a fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York before she and her husband, Joe Egender, relocated to Los Angeles. They opened Maciel's in Highland Park in June, serving her herbivorous takes on reubens, Italian hoagies and pulled pork sandwich. The riff on a Philly cheesesteak debuted in November — a savory textured jumble that includes grilled onions, mushrooms, jalapeños and vegan provolone melted to a consistency that appropriately recalls Cheez Whiz. The "steak" mingles chopped, seasoned seitan and black beans. Take it from someone who loves excellent plant-based cooking but has mixed feelings about meat substitutes: The combination transcends any notion of mimicking beef. It is just plainly delicious.

● *5933 York Blvd., Los Angeles, macielsplantbutcher.com*

Thai-nomite khao soi brisket dip sandwich at Open Market

At this Koreatown market and deli, chefs Ralph Hsiao and Andrew Marco construct sandwiches built on their interpretations of quintessential Los Angeles flavors. A vegan take on al pastor features grilled oyster mushrooms and pickled pineapple, while pickled radish, shredded gim, burdock root and perilla infuse tuna salad with Korean-inspired umami. They gravitate to twists on the French dip; the best is their latest creation: kerchiefs of brisket, pickled cabbage, red onion, cilantro and fried shallots stacked snugly enough between slices of baguette. It all holds together as you dip halves of the sandwich in a bowl of curried coconut-milk broth made in the style of lemongrass-fragrant khao soi. While you wait, take in the shelves full of enticements — wines with detailed descriptions in a spectrum of prices, tinned seafood, chocolates, a global array of condiments — curated by husband-and-wife co-founders Brian and Yoonna Lee.

● *3339 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, (213) 232-3851, openmarket.la*

Yogi Pear at Monroe Place

Sara Fakhfouri and Alex Maj named their Culver City sandwich shop after the address of their last apartment before moving west — a return home for Fakhfouri, who grew up in Torrance. Their selection of 10 or so cold sandwiches slowly revolves; I'm drawn to the ones that make subtle use of seasonal fruit. During their fall moment, persimmons appeared in crisp-soft slivers between burrata and jamón serrano, with mint vinaigrette and pomegranate molasses that hinted wonderfully at the Iranian flavors of Fakhfouri's culinary heritage. Currently, the couple are making a variation that rejiggers a pear and gorgonzola salad with ham, arugula and dressing of balsamic glaze and walnut honey mustard stacked high on Bub and Grandma's focaccia. Over the winter chill, I'm already dreaming of how they might weave summer peaches into one of their bready towers.

● *8541 Washington Blvd., Culver City, monroeplace.co*

Photographs by Bill Addison Los Angeles Times

opened his first restaurant in Glassell Park in September. It's already a citywide destination for egg sandwiches in the morning, with a lunchtime selection that harkens to Italian and Jewish delis in New Jersey, where both Kadin and Jarrett were raised. Expect at least a short wait for a table.

● *3507 Eagle Rock Blvd., Los Angeles, bubandgrandmas.com/restaurant*

Sabich at Vicky's All Day

True to its name, Danny Elmaleh's second casual West Adams restaurant — he and his wife, Justine, also operate Mizlala right around the block — serves dawn-to-dark menus, from lox and chilaquiles in the morning to pizzas and mezze plates through lunch and dinner. Somewhere in the middle is the sabich, Elmaleh's variation on a sandwich with Jewish-Iraqi origins that's a staple in Israel, where Elmaleh was raised. Brined and fried slices of eggplant, chopped tomato and cucumber salad, sliced egg and slaw tangled with amba (mango pickle) and tahini arrive crammed into a yawning round of pita. Fries come on the side, but in the sabich's whirl of shifting textures and bright, earthy flavors they may wind up overlooked.

● *5410 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, vickysallday.com*

QUICK BITES

Tokyo ramen

> Tokyo-founded tonkotsu specialist Tonchin, launched by brothers Motohiro and Katsuhiro Sugeno in 1992, just landed its first L.A. outpost. The team opened its first U.S. location in Manhattan in 2017, then followed it with one in Brooklyn last year. The L.A. location will be most similar to Manhattan's, with a coming full bar and a signature cocktail (currently it offers sake, beer, natural wine and tea). As with all Tonchin outposts, ramen is the focus, available with a variety of broths, including vegan miso and ginger as well as a smoked dashi option, and in a range of formats, such as dippable tsukemen. Try add-ons such as clams, corn and seasoned bamboo shoots. Small plates also are on offer — curry-and-cheese wings, unagi rice balls and gyoza — as are towering piles of kakigori for dessert. All bowls of ramen feature springy, fresh noodles made on-site. From a window just inside the entrance to Tonchin, guests can glimpse the "noodle room" where the team makes the wavy, custom-recipe ramen noodles via machine throughout the day. *5665 Melrose Ave., Los Angeles, (323) 380-6072, tonchinnewyork.com*

Mexican Riviera

> The international group behind Toca Madeira recently debuted a modern Mexican restaurant atop West Hollywood's Mondrian hotel. Casa Madera, an indoor-outdoor concept in 8,000 square feet, takes its inspiration from the Mayan Riviera with a focus on seafood. A raw bar serves seafood towers, ceviche blanco, aguachile and oysters; starters include grilled octopus, albondigas and Mayan-inspired hummus. The opening seasonal taco menu from Noble 33 restaurant group executive chef A.J. McCloud includes duck carnitas, al pastor and tiger shrimp; entrées include steaks, pollo asado and sea bass. The bar program also takes its cues from coastal Mexico, and includes nonalcoholic cocktails. *8440 Sunset Blvd., West Hollywood, (310) 878-0814, thecasamadera.com*

Sushi sans fish

> An entirely plant-based sushi bar is now open in Sawtelle, replacing tuna and sailfish with the likes of tapioca and peas. Dillon Bolin, formerly of Encino's Sushi Bar, leads the kitchen at Kusaki, which means "plant" in Japanese. Nigiri, hand rolls and maki come in options such as sweet corn with chile garlic, ponzu and yuzu-kosho aioli; miso eggplant with lemon and a sweet glaze; and a rainbow roll with seaweed caviar. Non-sushi options — such as avocado crispy rice, seared sesame tofu, tempura portobello mushroom and a shishito burger — are available. Enjoy an omakase menu, at $75 for five courses or $105 for seven, at the eight-seat chef's counter. A portion of each check benefits nonprofit One Tree Planted, which helps to restore Africa's rainforest. *2535 S. Barrington Ave., Los Angeles, (424) 213-6844, kusakila.com*

It's a pizza city

> A new two-day pizza festival is headed to L.A. this spring, showcasing about 40 pizza makers and an array of styles with tastings and discussion panels. Pizza City Fest, created by food writer Steve Dolinsky, launched in Chicago last year; it comes to the events deck at L.A. Live on April 29 and 30. Participating restaurants include Pizzana, L'Antica Pizzeria Da Michele, Quarter Sheets, Ronan, Apollonia's, De La Nonna, Little Coyote and the Rose. Panel discussions include how to make great pizza at home; making dough with Evan Funke and Daniele Uditi; and what "L.A.-style" pizza means. Single-day general-admission tickets are $95 and include drinks (alcoholic and nonalcoholic), 12 pizza slices and access to panels and book signings; single-day VIP tickets, at $175, include 16 slices and the aforementioned, plus early admission, a welcome toast, specialty food items, a VIP lounge, raffle entry, a shirt and a swag bag. *1005 Chick Hearn Court, Los Angeles, pizzacityfest.com*

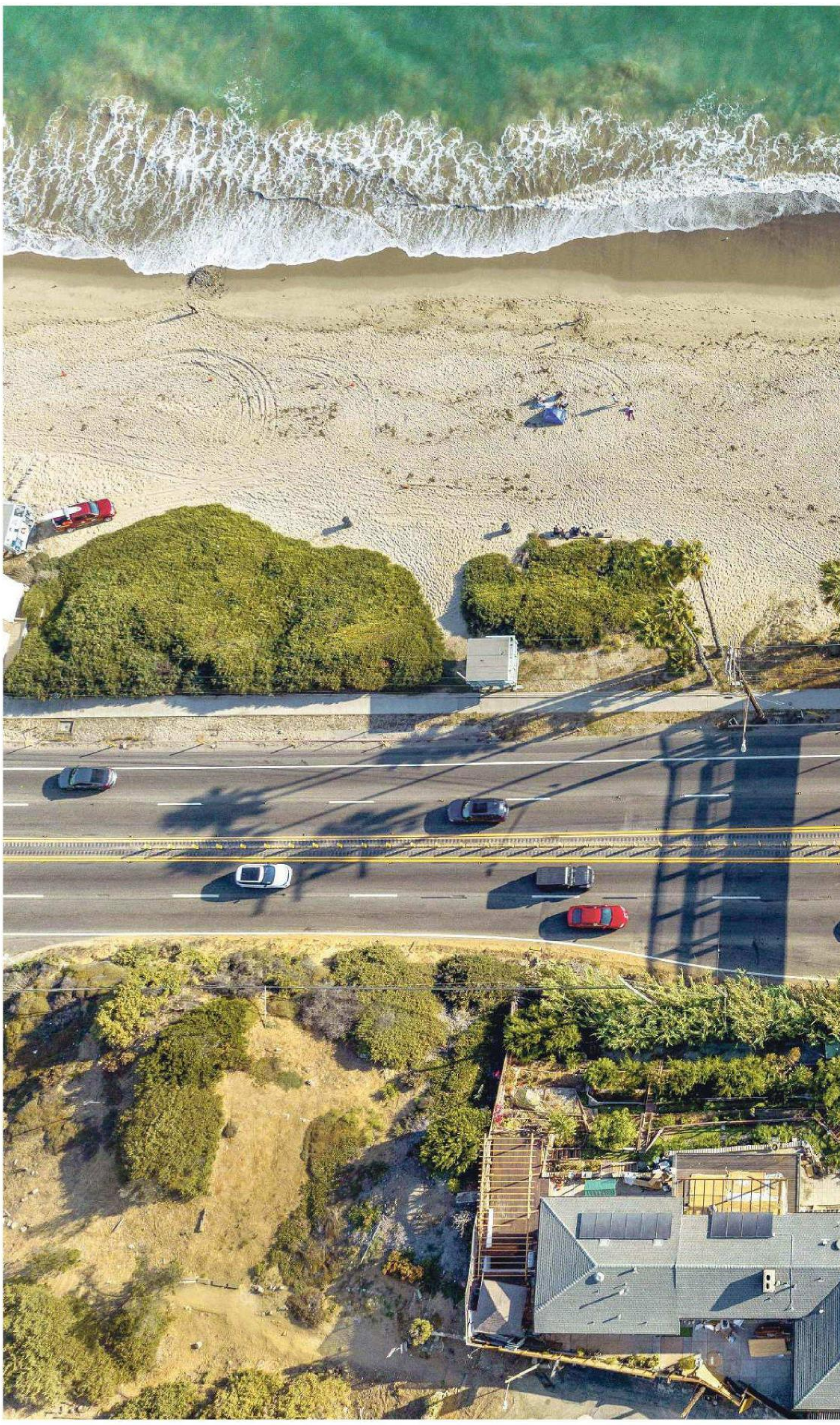
— Stephanie Breijo

Susana Sanchez Los Angeles Times

GET GREAT VIEWS AND A KILLER WORKOUT CLIMBING L.A. STAIRS

THESE STAIR WALKS ACROSS THE CITY WILL MAKE YOU SAY 'WOWZA!'

BY JEANETTE MARANTOS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MYUNG J. CHUN



HERE'S A recent realization that kind of blew my mind: Los Angeles is really a big city of hills. ¶ I spend so much time on flat freeways, I never appreciated just how elevated we get around here until I began exploring L.A.'s most challenging staircase walks, as collated by Charles Fleming in his 2010 book "Secret Stairs: A Walking Guide to the Historic Staircases of Los Angeles." (Fleming is a contributor to The Times.) ¶ Fleming documented 42 looping stair walks around L.A., from the up-and-down neighborhoods of El Sereno to the ocean breezes of Pacific Palisades. I'd heard about these stair walks, but I secretly worried about whether I could really do them. I'm a gardener in good health, but if there's a scale for athleticism, I'm near the bottom.

I've been AARP-eligible for more than a decade and my knees would be happier if I lost 25 pounds. I walk often but get winded climbing hills. Oh, and there's the klutz factor too: I broke my leg in October 2021 by stepping off a trail into ... nothing during a night hike in Griffith Park.

So my reasoning was, if *I* can do these heart-hammering, lung-bursting, are-you-*serious*?! climbs, then anyone who can manage stairs can too.

I chose some of the hardest of Fleming's walks with up to 1,000 steps and lengths up to four miles. I took friends with me on most of the hikes, women of about the same age and fitness level. We did many of these walks on 90-plus-degree days, and there were times I was sweating so much I felt like a liquid. Most of these routes, though, are shaded by mature trees, so there is some respite from the sun.

Many of these stairs also have lights, but I don't recommend taking these walks at night. For one, you miss the architecture, and two, you're so close to people's homes, it feels a little sketchy and unsafe to be a stranger in a strange neighborhood after dark.

I relied on my fellow walkers to help me answer the other big question: Were these walks worth the time, gas and serious sweat to get there?

Answer: For the most part, absolutely! Below are nine of my favorite stair walks that I gave a "Wowza!" rating. They're challenging routes worth multiple visits because the intense exertion is softened by magnificent scenery. For more Wowza walks, as well as ones where the exertion is more memorable than the scenery, use the QR code to find the online version of this story. Complete step-by-step directions for all the walks can be found there.

Obviously, this is very subjective — in some cases, my brain probably was addled by oxygen deprivation — so plan on trying all the walks and let me know how you would rate them.

SCAN THIS QR CODE for complete, step-by-step directions for these and seven more heart-pounding, glute-busting L.A. walks.

A few other pointers:

> These walks involve quiet neighborhoods not used to hordes of visitors, so be respectful of their privacy and keep out of their yards.

> Wear good walking shoes; flip-flops aren't going to make it here. Some of these streets are so steep you feel like you could fall off.

> Bring water and find a toilet ahead of time, because most of these routes have neither restrooms nor cafes.

> Parking can be a challenge, especially on weekends. Try to park as close to the starting/ending location as you can.

> Sidewalks are nonexistent on many of the walks' curvy, narrow streets, so proceed with care. I had a couple of near misses; drivers just don't expect people to be walking on these roads.

> The views can be spectacular but are often blocked by houses, trees and shrubs. For me, the best part of these walks was discovering some of L.A.'s most historic and beautiful neighborhoods and quintessential L.A. architecture.

> Buy a Kindle version of Fleming's 2020 book update for more walks and interesting details. If you're banking on dining at a restaurant he mentions, though, check if it's still open.

> If you're interested in other stair walks, or teaming up with stair walkers, check out SoCal Stair Climbers, a group that regularly designs and hosts stair walks around L.A. County that are as short as four miles or as long as 20.

PACIFIC PALISADES
RUSTIC CANYON LOOP WALK

I love, love, *love* this walk, even though it took me past a parade of hard bodies charging up and down the infamous 4th Street Stairs multiple times before I could huff and puff my way to the top just once.

So yes, expect some labored breathing on this walk, but it also takes you through some serene and majestically green neighborhoods, great ocean views and — quite unexpectedly — a tiny stream during our dry-as-dust summer. There are lots of stairs — at 976 steps, it's one of the most stair-intensive — but the sights are so transporting it's easy to forget you're near a city center, and that makes all the effort worthwhile.

Park alongside the beach at the Will Rogers Parking Lot No. 1, where Entrada Drive spills into the Pacific Coast Highway. Parking here is $9, and it's safest to bring cash, since the machines don't reliably accept cards. This walk will take you along PCH, through a tunnel under the road, past Patrick's Roadhouse to your first set of stairs, a colorful set of 48 steps that climb to Ocean Way. You'll also climb the 4th Street Stairs, which zig and zag 189 steps with a fair number of panting, dripping athletic types running up and down them. There are also several landings along the way where you can catch your breath and enjoy the gorgeous views behind you. You'll then head to the Santa Monica Stairs, 166 weathered wooden steps, before eventually making your way back to the parking lot.

Distance: 3.0 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

PACIFIC PALISADES
CASTELLAMMARE

This scenic walk isn't as strenuous as some of the others, but the sweeping ocean views and unique, stately homes make it well worth the trek. And believe me, you'll still get plenty of exercise on stairs with a total of 518 steps.

Park in Will Rogers State Beach Parking Lot 5 on the ocean side of Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). The fees vary depending on the season. Between Labor Day and Memorial Day, expect to pay $6 on weekdays and $8 on weekends to park from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. After Memorial Day, during the peak summer months, the rates increase to $8 on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and $13 on weekends from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Important note: Technically the self-serve parking machines accept debit and credit cards, but when I went, the only thing that worked was cash, so be sure to bring some paper money in exact amounts, since the machines don't give change.

Head north on PCH past a bank of public showers and restrooms (here's your chance) toward the pedestrian bridge over the highway. As you walk, notice the damage done by landslides across the highway, where whole portions of the hillside have washed away. Farther on you'll see some innovative and some downright ugly attempts to stop the slides. At the overpass, climb the 35 steps to cross the always busy highway and then walk past the south side of the once-grand Thelma Todd's Sidewalk Cafe, now a historic site, up another 40 steps to Castellammare Drive. Turn left on Castellammare, walking uphill a short distance to the next set of stairs on the right — 69 steps up to Posetano Road. Across the street, you'll see evidence of stairs that used to go farther up until they were destroyed by a landslide, so here we turn left. We're still walking uphill but this street has many lovely homes that our slow ascent gives us plenty of time to admire.

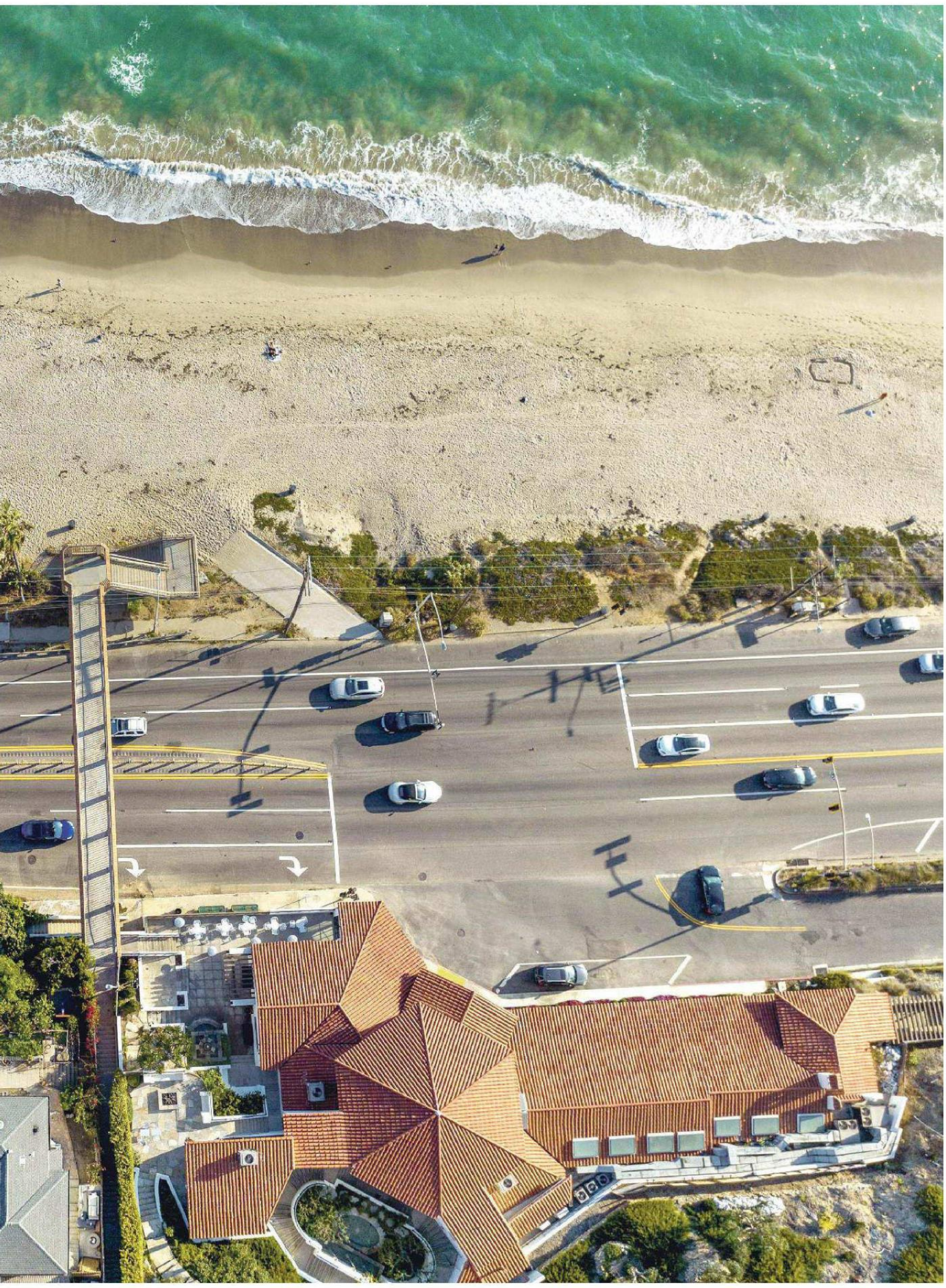
The walk continues up- and downhill and has even more stairs up ahead. Along the walk you'll spot a giant villa with huge, suspended-in-midair tennis courts and a patio jutting out the back. You can supposedly spot glimpses of the Getty Villa (which offers tours of its collection of ancient Greek and Roman art), but I couldn't see much. At the end of the walk, if you're hungry, stop at Gladstone's restaurant.

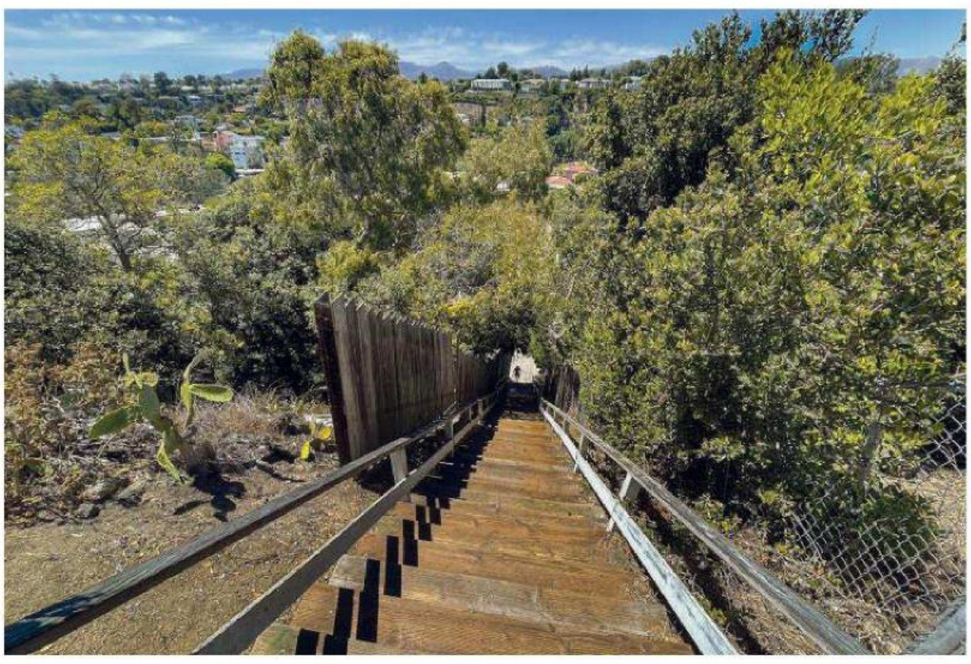
Distance: 3.2 miles

Difficulty: Moderate

SILVER LAKE
COVE-LOMA VISTA LOOP WALK

This is another of my favorite walks because it takes you along Loma Vista Place, a shady stairway "street" that climbs past a mix of stunning and bedraggled homes, some with beautifully landscaped yards and others wildly overgrown. It took me several minutes to comprehend





THE HISTORIC Santa Monica Stairs, above, provide a strenuous workout. L.A.'s stair walks offer great scenery and glimpses into the region's past, including Thelma Todd's Sidewalk Cafe, top, part of the Castellammare walk, left, with Pacific Ocean views. The Mattachine Steps, below right, are named after one of the U.S.' first gay rights groups.

that these steep stairs were the main access to these houses — which only sharpened my appreciation and curiosity. Who are these hearty Silver Lake people who must trudge up countless stairs daily, just to enter their homes? Someone should do a study to see if they are healthier than the rest of us.

Anyway, I loved this walk even though it nearly killed me. Near the end, I had to mince my way down one of the steepest streets I've ever encountered — Edendale Place. I was relieved when I realized I wouldn't have to climb that street, but walking down was almost as hard because of the effort involved in not falling on my face.

A note: I recommend a different starting point than Fleming because of issues with parking and traffic. Fleming starts his walk at the corner of Silver Lake Boulevard and Glendale Boulevard, a nightmare of cars and noise. He recommended walking up Glendale Boulevard from there, from wherever you managed to park, so you can pass the offices of the famous father-son architects Richard and Dion Neutra at 2379 Glendale Blvd. (now the Neutra Institute Museum of Silver Lake). Richard designed the office and many of Silver Lake's lovely homes, but the car issues are so taxing, I recommend parking about five or six blocks farther up Glendale Boulevard near Earl Street, where the traffic is far lighter and it's much easier to park. Then, if you must get a look at the Neutra office building, walk down Glendale to take a peek.

Note, too, that the lovely Silver Lake Library is at the corner of Glendale and Silver Lake; you'll find a restroom, water fountain and small but compelling display of old and rare books in its tiny bookstore.

Park on Glendale Boulevard as close to Earl Street as possible. Then walk up Earl heading west, toward the lake. This is a street with beautiful homes, including the "Tree Tops" home at 2434 Earl, designed by Dion Neutra in 1980, and Richard's 1948 Sokol house at 2242 Earl, whose property extends from Neutra Place, the street named after the architects, to Silver Lake Boulevard. Follow wistfully along to Silver Lake and turn left. Enjoy the short, relatively flat walk along Silver Lake and then turn left on Cove Avenue for a searingly steep climb to the Mattachine Steps, a.k.a. the Cove Avenue Stairs. The stairs are named after the Mattachine Society, one of the United States' earliest gay rights organizations. At the top, continue straight on Cove Avenue past Apex Avenue and a short flight of 19 stairs back to Glendale Boulevard. Cross the boulevard carefully; the traffic is thinner here, but it's still a major road.

The walk continues on to the Loma Vista Place stairs — 182 steps shaded by sprawling oaks and many other trees, from bananas to eucalyptus. This stair walk feels magical and transporting. It's quite a climb but there's so much to admire I didn't feel much pain. In the dappled shade there are rustic, artistic mailboxes, inviting benches and whimsical landscaping. The stairs turn into a level path for a short distance and then head down, past seemingly older and much more ramshackle homes. One appears abandoned, but a passing neighbor assures me someone really does live there. I asked her, "Is there really no other way into these homes except these stairs? Do the residents really have to lug everything up multiple flights to their doors?" The woman shrugged. "I guess it's a lifestyle," she said, as her dog dragged her away. Even more stairs lie ahead, including the Three Stooges Stairs, from their 1941 short movie "An Ache in Every Stake," which features them trying to carry a block of ice up the stairs, with predictably disastrous results.

Distance: 2.0 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

HOLLYWOOD

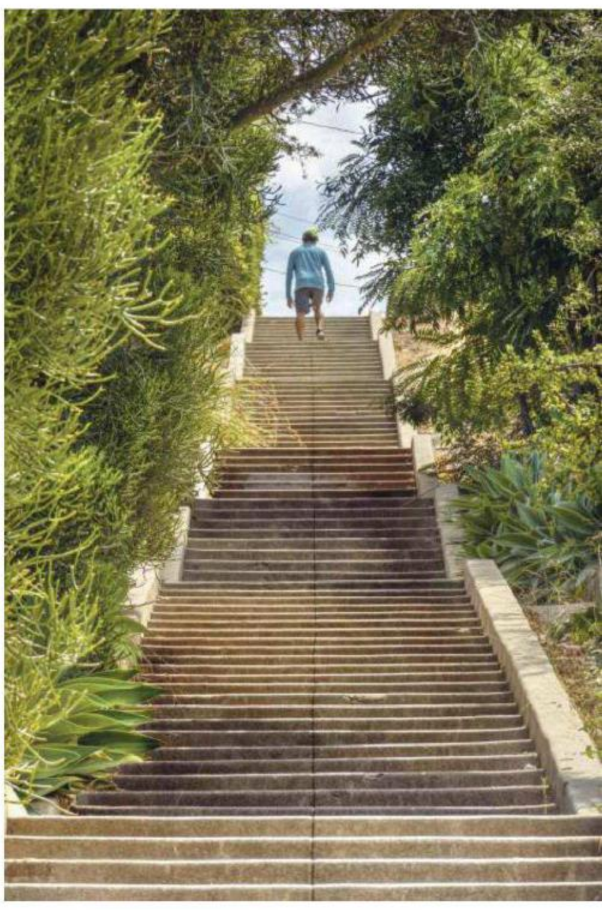
HOLLYWOOD BOWL AND HIGH TOWER LOOP

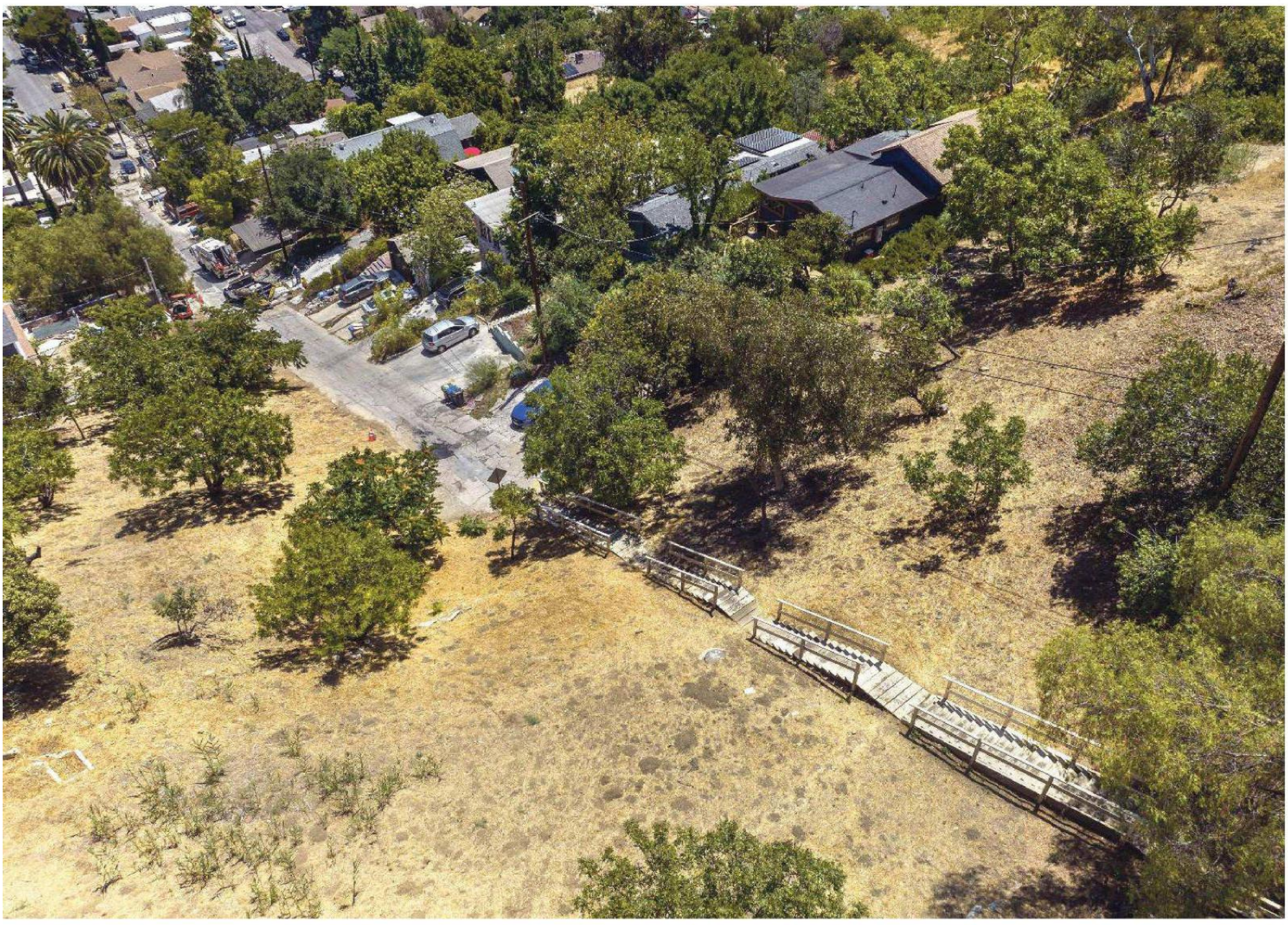
I really love this walk through the hills of Hollywood Heights, next to the Hollywood Bowl, along some of the historic "walk streets" where the only access is by foot. As you're walking, look for the narrow, cavelike garages carved into the hills below these extraordinary homes, built when cars were much smaller, and the famous freestanding High Tower elevator, which transports lucky residents with keys up to their hillside homes.

There are only 486 steps on this walk but several intense uphill climbs that lead to narrow passageways where people live, which feel both intimate and magical. The walk takes you behind the Hollywood Bowl, and I've added a detour through the lovely Highland Camrose Bungalow Village to avoid walking along Highland Avenue, which is lousy with jarring traffic.

But first you have to park, and that may be the most challenging part of the walk. If you drive up Highland to Camrose and take a right on what becomes Milner Road, you have a fair chance of finding some parking a few blocks away on North Las Palmas Avenue, the first right off of Milner. I do not recommend trying to park on Camrose — it's a narrow street already crammed with cars; nice for walking but hellish for parking. And if you happen to visit on a day when there's an event at the Hollywood Bowl, you could get blocked in, so best to leave that area for walking only.

A final note: You won't find any restrooms or water along this route, so plan to make a prewalk pit stop at a coffee shop





or gas station somewhere else before you start.

Start the walk by turning on Camrose at Highland and head uphill — something you'll do a lot of on this walk. On your right you'll see the Highland Camrose Bungalow Village, a cluster of Craftsman-style bungalows built between 1900 and 1924 that's now on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district of "working-class housing." The bungalows now are used as offices for organizations affiliated with the nearby Hollywood Bowl. We will walk through the grounds later, on our return. Continue up Camrose, past Woodland Way and Rockledge Road, and turn left on High Tower Drive. The homes are so unique and colorful that it's easy to forget that we were in the thick of terrible traffic just a few blocks before. Walk to the end of the cul-de-sac and find your first stairs next to a bright pink wall draped with bougainvillea. This is a clean set of stairs shaded by eucalyptus trees that climbs 103 steps up to the cul-de-sac end of Glencoe Way. If you look behind midway up, you can see the round Capital Records building in the distance. At the top, while you catch your breath, look to your right to see the High Tower elevator shaft built in the 1920s, styled after an Italian campanile (free-standing bell tower). We'll be walking right next to the elevator soon enough, so for now, just cross Glencoe to the next set of stairs, which goes up another 110 steps to the cul-de-sac end of Paramount Drive.

The walk continues to the Alta Loma neighborhood, which is filled with passages and serene gardens. Some of the passages are so narrow and winding they inflame my claustrophobia as much as my fascination, but luckily I can keep moving, more steeply downhill now, almost like Alice running headlong through Wonderland.

Distance: 2.6 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

HIGHLAND PARK SOUTHWEST MUSEUM WALK

Fleming designed this walk to include the grounds of the Southwest Museum of the American Indian, but the museum and its grounds are currently closed to visitors with no date set for reopening, according to museum officials. Nonetheless, this challenging, strenuous walk is still one of my favorites, partly because I started looking up at the distant hills thinking, "Can he *really* expect me to get up *there*?" and then being totally exhilarated when I found myself at the top of those high hills looking down.

One reason I love this walk: It involves the longest wooden stairs in Los Angeles — 196 winding steps at the top of reportedly the steepest road in California: Eldred Street. The top of this street is so steep — a 33% grade — that I almost had to crawl to get to the top. Needless to say, the going was very slow, but every few feet, when I would stop to catch my breath (this is just a block-long hike, mind you), I would carefully turn around and gasp anew at the view.

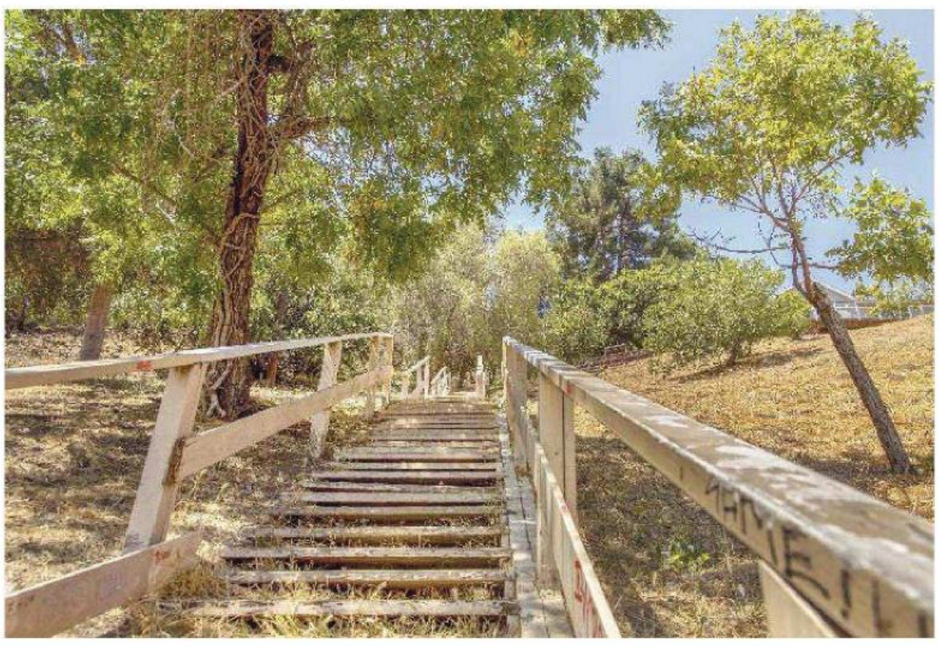
You'll pass through a variety of neighborhoods too, from more modest homes with inventive vegetable gardens and found-item sculptures in the front yard to more elaborate mini-mansions perched somewhat precariously at the edge of the hills. There are lots of mature trees here and birdsong with bits of history and art along the route. I went alone on this one, and I can't wait to go back and challenge my family and friends.

Find a place to park on Sycamore Terrace, as close as you can get to North Figueroa Street and North Avenue 50, because that's where you'll start your walk; but you'll also end up on Sycamore Terrace, so anywhere along this street is good. You'll head uphill on the left side of North Avenue 50 until you reach Lynn Street, where you will turn left. Walk a block to the end of Lynn Street and find your first set of stairs, heading down. (This is where I started getting nervous about the hills looming before me, wondering how I could climb anything that high.) Walk down the 60 steps to a continuation of Lynn and turn right onto North Avenue 49.

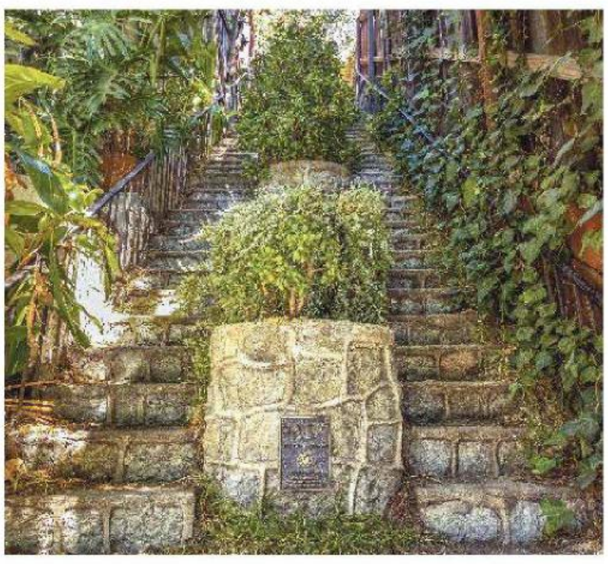
During this walk, you'll amble through a charming neighborhood of tidy duplexes and bungalows, huff your way up Eldred Street, climb 196 steps up a rickety white wooden staircase at Eldred Street and Avenue 48 and, near the end, pass the remarkable L.A. historic-cultural monument known as the Hiner House and Sousa Nook.

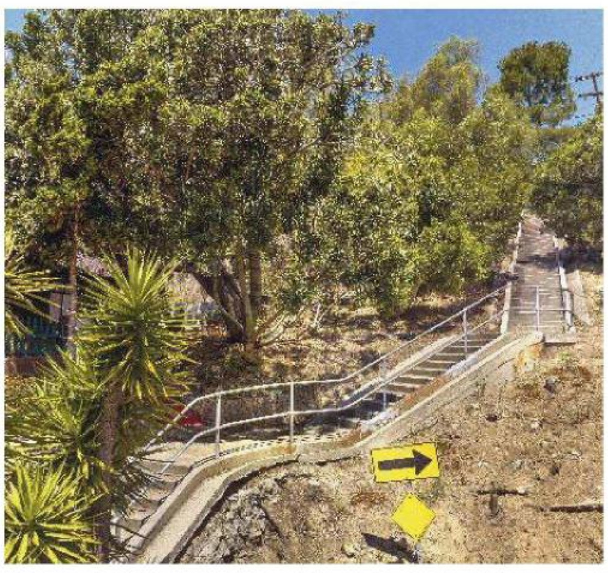
Distance: 3.0 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous



THE STAIRS on the steep Eldred Street in Mt. Washington are part of the Southwest Museum walk, above. The Saroyan Stairs, pictured below, were built of granite in 1923 and declared a historic-cultural monument by the city of L.A. in 1991. The view along the Hollywood Bowl-High Tower loop, middle. A zig-zagging staircase on Avenue 43 on the Mt. Washington walk route, bottom.





HOLLYWOOD BEACHWOOD CANYON WALK

If you have visitors just *dying* to see the Hollywood sign, this is the walk for you. And even if you are indifferent to L.A.'s iconic sign, this strenuous walk will fill you up with historic stairs, scenic views and winding, charming streets full of unique and lovely homes.

A couple of important notes before you start: We took this walk on a Sunday, when there was far too much traffic and too many people walking up the hill to see the sign. If possible, try to schedule this walk on a weekday, when the crowds will be thinner, and stop in at the excellent Beachwood Cafe for a delicious meal (open daily 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. except Mondays, when it's open 4 to 9 p.m.). On Sunday, the wait was way too long for two ravenous walkers.

Find a restroom before you get to Beachwood Canyon, because you won't find any there. We went to the Gower Gulch shopping area where, for the first time ever, I found a Starbucks that didn't have public restrooms. The Rite Aid at the other end of the center had restrooms that were out of order, but the Denny's had a very nice restroom we were able to use. Perhaps you can order a coffee or iced tea to-go there in gratitude.

Parking will be your first challenge. Once you drive through the "Hollywoodland" gates of Beachwood Canyon (the original name of this housing development from 1923), the cafe will be on your left, at the corner of North Beachwood Drive and Westshire Drive. We had good luck finding parking on Woodhaven Drive, a narrow, winding street with extraordinary homes just a short jog right and then immediately left from the cafe.

Wherever you park, start your walk at the cafe. Walk north (uphill) on North Beachwood Drive on the right side of the street. You'll pass the other end of Woodhaven Street on your right, and a short distance later, past a long brown fence shaded by a magnificent backyard oak at 2800 Beachwood, look for your first stairs on the right, the North Beachwood Westshire Stairs. (Do not take the stairs a little farther to the left.) These shady stairs are steep but beautiful, 143 steps up to Westshire Drive, where you take a right and continue to climb until the road splits at Lechner Place. Stay right and continue on Westshire on a winding walk downhill. When Westshire takes a wide curve to the right, look for your next stairs on the left at 2748, another steep and shady climb with wrought-iron handrails up 149 steps to Hollyridge Drive, where you turn left.

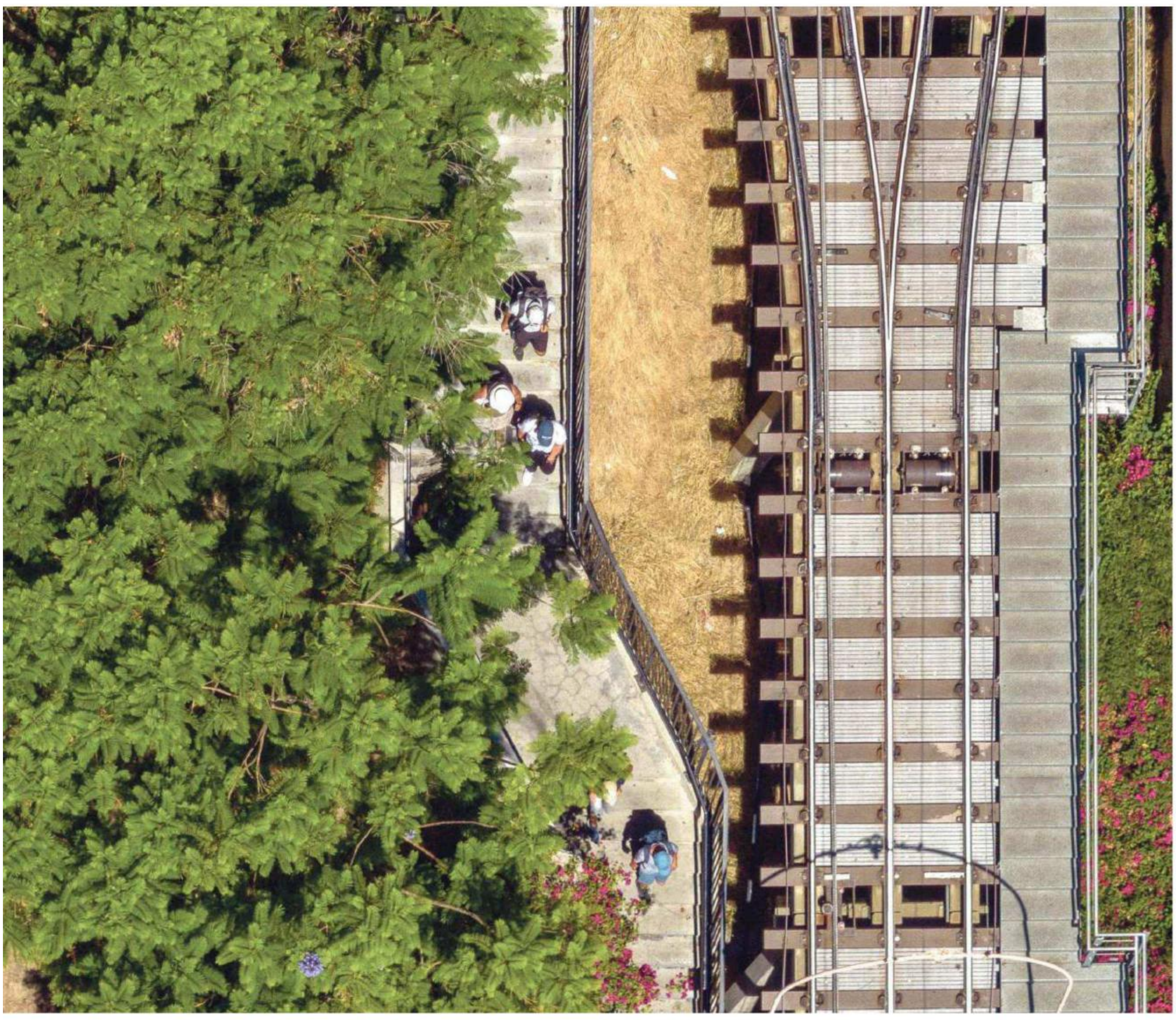
The rest of the walk includes some terrific views in between houses and eventually the "Hollywoodland's Granite Retaining Walls and Interconnecting Granite Stairs," an L.A. historic-cultural monument, built in 1928. You'll also pass the enchanting Garden of Oz. Looking through the gate, there are signs asking you to refrain from taking photos of the colorful mosaics and sculptures within. But just a few steps downhill, you'll pass parts of the garden that are easy to admire and photograph, including the delightful "throne" of stones built into the hill to your left. It's called "A Throne of Your Own," and it's a great spot to stop and take photos

Distance: 2.6 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

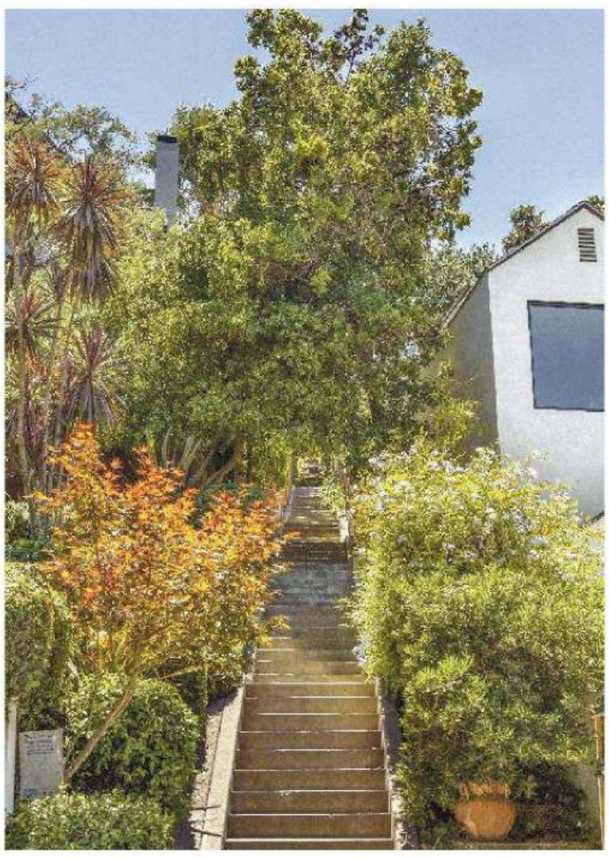
MT. WASHINGTON

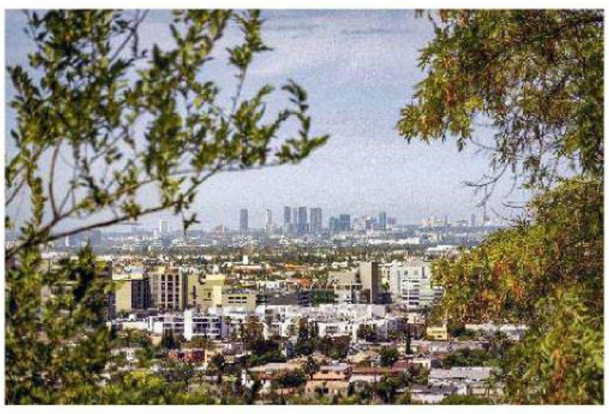
OK, this walk would have ended up in the "more-strenuous-than-scenic" category except for one important detail: The route takes you right by the verdant grounds of the Self-Realization Fellowship International Headquarters, established by Paramahansa Yogananda, author of "Autobiography of a Yogi," in 1925. It's well worth the short detour to walk the inviting, peaceful public areas of the property, which was once the site of the historic Mt. Washington Hotel. The visitor center by the entrance gate has a restroom and drinking fountain, and the staff is welcoming but decidedly un-pushy. Walk farther in to explore the short but



ANGELS FLIGHT

IN BUNKER HILL, a set of stairs next to the Angels Flight Railway landmark connects California Plaza Park and Hill Street, top and left. The Ivan Hill Glendale Stairs climb 212 steps in total with 56 steps through a green bowered space that feels like a magic garden, below. Stunning views of residential architecture and Century City along the brief but strenuous Radio-Prospect loop that runs through East Hollywood for just 2.7 miles.





idyllic garden trails on your right and the old hotel on your left, which now houses the fellowship's administration offices, library and chapel, open to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Fleming notes there was once a funicular railway that carried guests from Figueroa Street to the hotel. You'll understand why once you walk this very steep route that gets more scenic the higher you go. Almost all of this memorable walk is steep up or steep down.

Park near the Superior Grocers market at Avenue 45 and North Figueroa Street, so you can go inside the store before and/or after you're done to buy a tall, cool agua fresca. I did both, and believe me, you'll want to too. There are several flavors, but I particularly love pepino con limon (cucumber with lime), which was refreshing and delicious. Enter through the store's left doors and then turn left; the drink counter is conveniently near the restrooms. Leave the store and walk up Avenue 45 over the Gold Line train tracks and past Marmion Way, until you see Glenalbyn Drive on the left. Turn left on Glenalbyn and walk a couple of blocks until you come to Avenue 43 and turn right.

Walk up Avenue 43, a short steep block that veers right, becoming Glenmuir Avenue. Look to the left to find your first staircase, 102 steps that end at Canyon Vista Drive.

The walk continues with some excellent views of downtown and East L.A. You'll also pass the Self-Realization Fellowship, Craftsman homes and Mt. Washington Elementary School.

Distance: 3.2 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

SILVER LAKE
ASTRO LOOP WALK

This is a weird walk, no question. With 704 steps, it's pretty strenuous as well. It's worth the effort because things change so much along the route — it stays interesting. The secret-garden feel through shady neighborhoods transforms into open dirt roads and even a Polynesian garden. I did this one alone but wish I'd had someone with me to share my bewilderment and delight.

A note: I recommend slicing off the very first part of Fleming's walk, which takes you east along Fletcher Drive to a very busy intersection at Riverside Drive to climb some stairs behind the Ivanhoe Restaurant & Bar. The stairs are on a barren hillside, filled with weeds and broken glass, and the walk through here felt uncomfortable. The walk turns into a neighborhood with a few pretty houses but then takes you right back where you started, so this leg of the walk is best omitted entirely.

I recommend parking behind the Astro Family Restaurant on Silver Lake Boulevard. Walk to the front of the restaurant on Glendale Boulevard at Fletcher Drive, cross Glendale and turn right, heading uphill. About a block up, just past 2617 Glendale, you'll find the Ivan Hill Glendale Stairs, which climb 212 steps in total, starting with 56 steps through a green bowered space that feels like a magic garden to Ivan Hill Terrace, and then continuing on up across the street another 156 steps to Ivanhoe Drive. According to Fleming, Judy Garland lived in the castle-like home at 2605. (It looks more like a castle from the stairs than it does from the street.)

The walk continues past interesting homes and little free libraries, including one in the shape of a black cat adorned with quotations, such as "The smallest feline is a masterpiece. — Leonardo da Vinci." Another sign follows the "We believe" yard sign format, as in "We believe women's rights are human rights," etc., except this one reads: "We believe the legal thriller Michael Clayton starring George Clooney, Tilda Swinton and Tom Wilkinson is a vastly underrated cinematic masterpiece and easily one of the five best films of the 21st century." You'll also spot an inscrutable Easter Island moai watching all who pass.

If, like me, you are feeling famished at the end of the walk, grab a table at the Astro Family Restaurant. This isn't gourmet fare, but I got a milkshake and a burger, and it was just right.

Distance: 2.5 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

DOWNTOWN
LOS ANGELES WALK

This walk is the answer for every Angeleno who's had out-of-town visitors begging to see downtown L.A. It's also great for anyone who loves downtown, or wants to know more about the area, because it takes you to favorite haunts and landmarks and a few other places I never knew were there.

It also includes a *lot* of stairs, 804 total, so come prepared. This is not an easy stroll, but it sure is fun. If you just stick to the route and keep moving, it should take about 90 minutes to complete, but of course we stopped several times along the way, for coffee, snacks or just to admire, so plan accordingly. It could easily take up most of an afternoon.

Park at the Los Angeles Times Spring Street parking garage, just a block from Grand Central Market, where you start your walk. We paid $10 for parking at the Spring Street garage. Exit out the back of the garage and turn left (south) onto South Broadway. Walk about a block on Broadway and cross East 3rd Street to enter the historic Bradbury Building at 304 S. Broadway. Built in 1893, it's now the oldest commercial building still standing in the city center. This is the first of many recommended detours, but it's worth a few minutes to admire the extraordinary wrought-iron staircases, open-cage elevator, brick and wood walls and enormous atrium roof in the lobby, all featured in the classic movie "Blade Runner." You can't go any farther unless you have a personal escort, but it's free to wander the lobby from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekends. Walk back outside and cross Broadway to 3rd Street, then turn left, past the historic Million Dollar Theater to Grand Central Market, L.A's. largest and oldest public market, which opened in 1917. Again, another detour and the walk hasn't even started yet! But good luck trying to walk through this aromatic, raucous space without stopping to buy *something*. I recommend an early surrender to give all the walkers a chance to fortify themselves.

When everyone is satiated, walk out the back of the market to South Hill Street and cross the street at the crosswalk to the Angels Flight Railway and stairs, the official beginning of our walk. Admire the funicular cars that move up and down the steep slope between Hill and South Olive streets. Your task is to climb the adjacent stairs, 121 steps to the top. Here, I diverge from Fleming's instructions. He recommends walking through the park next to the stairs, but it's fenced off now, and walking along Olive Street to some stairs near 4th and Olive is a mess of traffic and noise. Instead, I suggest continuing up the stairs in front of you another 30 steps to what appears to be a parking garage over Olive Street. In fact, it is one of several entrances to California Plaza, which was our destination anyway. It's a lovely spot to walk, rest or grab another coffee.

This walk goes on to include the Bunker Hill Stairs, the Central Library's Maguire Gardens, a spiral staircase in the Westin Bonaventure Hotel, the backyard of Walt Disney Concert Hall and Grand Park.

Distance: 3.0 miles

Difficulty: Strenuous

FRANKLIN HILLS WEST
RADIO-PROSPECT LOOP

I took an out-of-state friend on this East Hollywood walk and she *loved* it, which influenced my decision to give it a Wowza! score. She had just spent 30 days hiking 250 miles on the Camino de Santiago in Spain, so she's no newbie to walking, but she liked what I too liked best about this walk: exploring classic L.A. neighborhoods and all the different architecture and landscape styles, from basic to eye-popping.

There are fewer than 700 steps on this walk, but it still has some breathtaking climbs and drops.

Fleming starts this walk at the nightmare triple intersection of Hollywood Boulevard, Sunset Boulevard and Hillhurst Avenue. I recommend doing *anything* you can to avoid that, such as parking on a nearby residential street like Rosalia Road (where I parked) or North Commonwealth Avenue, both of which connect to Sunset Drive, where we will start our walk heading east. Be sure you walk on Sunset Drive — *not* Sunset Boulevard — toward the hills, which, yes, we are going to climb. Walk past Rosalia Road and North Commonwealth Avenue on Sunset, and turn left on Hoover Street. Walk two blocks up Hoover, past Clayton Avenue (jog a little to the right to stay on Hoover) and West Camero Avenue to where the street ends in front of the Hoover Walk, a double-sided staircase with a colorful and slightly graffitied mural and 38 steps.

The walk continues past Prospect Studios to include several more sets of steps as well as great views of Griffith Observatory and the Hollywood sign. You can at one point take a short detour to the magical Shakespeare Bridge, where you can take photos through the crazy turrets and stare down at the wild garden below.

Distance: 2.7 miles

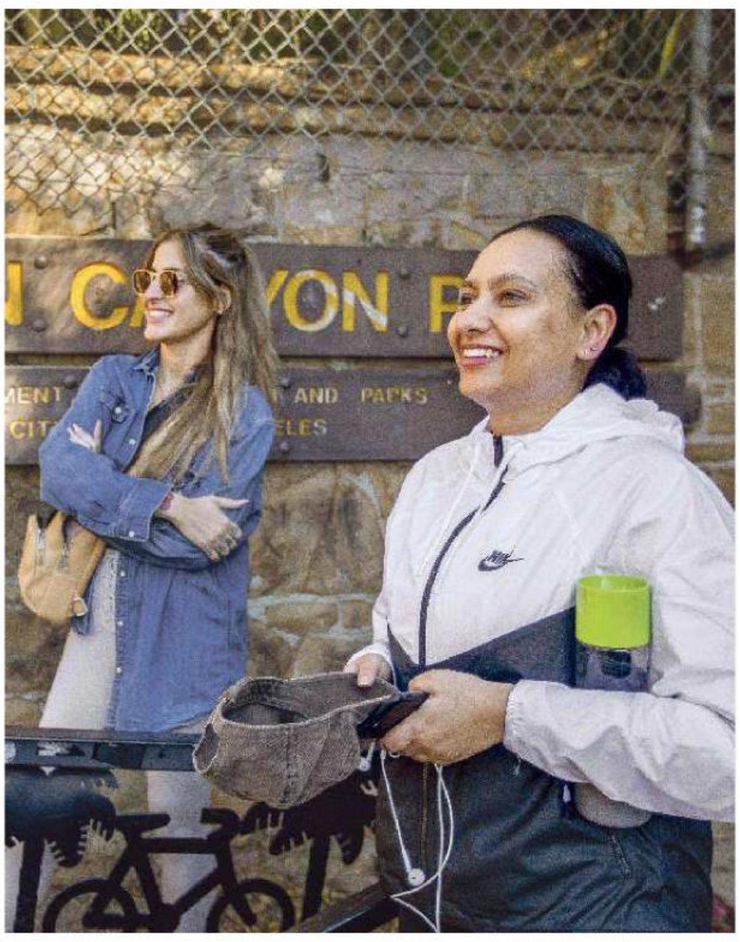
Difficulty: Moderate

Photographs by FRANCINE ORR Los Angeles Times

HOW TO MAKE FRIENDS IN L.A.? WALK

MONICA FIGUEROA WANTED A HEALTHY COMMUNITY — SO SHE FOUNDED ONE

BY KAILYN BROWN



MONICA FIGUEROA, top left, launched San Diego Girls Who Walk in her hometown. She then expanded to L.A., where Camila Zas, above left, Leila Areff and others joined in.

ON A Saturday morning, Beverly Fagoaga nervously arrived at the Lake Hollywood Reservoir trail where a local collective known as L.A. Girls Who Walk was hosting a three-mile stroll.

Garbed in running tights and sneakers, the 24-year-old sales representative wasn't just there to get her steps in for the day on the scenic pathway, which overlooks an idyllic lake and offers a view of the Hollywood sign. Her main objective was simple: She was there to make friends.

"I came here just to meet people," Fagoaga said during the walking event. She added that making friends as an adult can already be a challenge and that the pandemic has only made interactions with strangers more complicated.

Fagoaga, who works from home, was diagnosed with depression in 2020. Since then, she's been going on walks regularly with her dog to help her cope. But on this particular Saturday, she decided to get "out of her comfort zone" and attend an L.A. Girls Who Walk event after learning about the group on Instagram.

"In high school, you're forced to be with people for like eight hours a day, but as you get older, you're not forced to," she said. "So you kind of have to push yourself to do it, so that's what I'm doing today."

It's a feeling that Monica Figueroa, founder of L.A. Girls Who Walk, can relate to. As someone who's struggled with anxiety throughout her life, she decided to launch the group in June to help others, including herself, meet new people and hopefully make long-lasting friendships through the low-stakes activity of walking. She started a chapter of the walking group — San Diego Girls Who Walk — in her hometown in May.

Although the word "girls" is in the name, Figueroa said that nonbinary people and gay men are welcome to the monthly meet-ups, which are free.

Walking is "a very low-budget, accessible and healthy activity to do when you're being social, and there really aren't that many of those things to do [in L.A.]," said 28-year-old Figueroa, who moved to L.A. in May for work. She is working to make the walk events more accessible for those who need disabled access, she added.

"Everything either costs money, [or] causes you to be up late at night, which is not good for your health. It just seems like everything comes with a price, and [walking] really is one of the few things that doesn't."

Walking is what helped Figueroa make buddies after she was sent to work in New York City for several months last year. The pharmaceutical sales representative didn't want to explore the city alone, but she was becoming fed up with how difficult it was to make genuine connections with people. She'd tried using Bumble BFF, a mobile app for people seeking friendships, though she found it to be superficial due to the app's visual nature.

"You don't really get to know people just by looking and swiping very quickly," she said. "It's not the best way to make friends. You [may] think you like it because you can pick and choose, but people pick and choose too much."

After getting flaked on multiple times, Figueroa eventually found luck when she bluntly asked a woman she'd connected with on Bumble BFF if she wanted to attend an event hosted by City Girls Who Walk, a collective that invites women to walk for the purpose of making pals. Figueroa and the woman attended the event multiple times together and bonded with two other women whom they added to their friend group. But when Figueroa received a job promotion that sent her to live in L.A. long-term, she was back at square one having to make new friends in a new city.

Inspired by City Girls Who Walk and seeing how walking groups were popping up around the country, Figueroa decided to conceive her own clubs with San Diego and L.A. Girls Who Walk, which each hold at least one walk per month. She's since held nearly 20 walks in San Diego and roughly 10 in L.A.

Many of the people who've attended L.A. Girls Who Walk events have discovered the collective on social media. A video of dozens of women socializing while strolling on a picturesque trail has garnered nearly 200,000 views on TikTok.

Lacey Stansell, who moved to L.A. from Washington, D.C., in July, went to an L.A. walk because she thought it would be a safe way to meet people without having to risk her health.

"It's really hard for me to make friends in the traditional way [at] like indoor events because when people wear masks, I can't understand them since I rely on lip reading. And if they aren't masked, I am worried about catching COVID," said Stansell, who has kidney disease and is Hard of Hearing. "So this is like the perfect medium. I can see people, I can talk [and] it's relaxed." By the end of the walk, she was exchanging phone numbers with another attendee who was also a recent L.A. transplant.

There's an array of meet-up groups for specific interests and hobbies in L.A., but what attracted Miranda Mangahas to the walking club is the fact that it doesn't take much effort.

"It's easy. I don't need to be super skilled to do it. I just have to show up," said Mangahas, 24, who moved to L.A. during the height of the pandemic for work. She became a volunteer for L.A. Girls Who Walk after going to one of its events.

Walking is also different from other activities because it "gives you space to communicate," Mangahas said. "Because, really, what else are you doing on a walk? If you're biking or if you're doing some type of sport, you might be able to talk on the sidelines or you're focused on actually doing the activity."

As the demand for Figueroa to host more walks throughout L.A. has grown, she started a Discord group chat — which now has nearly 2,000 members — so people could host walks in their own neighborhoods. After meeting several women who lived in her community via the chat, Sophie Senarath started a subgroup in Pasadena.

"I didn't really know many other women my age in the area, so it was a great way to just be like, 'Oh wow, I knew there were other people my age who had similar interests to me who live around me.' It was just a matter of getting connected with them," said Senarath, 28, who moved to Pasadena more than a year ago.

To make friends, you have to be a friend, "so that's why I really wanted to start doing the events and doing them every week," she added. "Even if only one person showed up or 10, it doesn't really matter. The point is meeting people and getting out of the house and doing something that's healthy for you and also just a positive way to have social interaction."

L.A. Girls Who Walk has become much more than just a walking group, Figueroa said, as many of the attendees host other social gatherings such as dinner and paint parties on a regular basis. "It's been really great to see and hear that people have had actual long-sustaining friendships," she said.

"My hope essentially is for girls who are in that position [and] are looking for friendship to really see our club and our group chat as the first step in doing that successfully," Figueroa said before quickly adding, "or maybe even the second step when Bumble BFF hasn't worked out."

SUNDAY
FUNDAY

Lia Tin For The Times

LINDA LINDAS WOULD EAT EAT, SHOP SHOP

AND THE CHERRY ON TOP: A SLEATER-KINNEY CONCERT

BY KAILYN BROWN

SINCE the Linda Lindas wooed music lovers with a commanding performance of their song "Racist, Sexist Boy" at the Los Angeles Public Library nearly two years ago — the video now has more than 1.5 million views on YouTube — their life has been anything but chill.

The all-girl punk band — a mix of sisters, cousins and chosen family ranging from ages 12 to 18 — opened for the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' tour along with Japanese Breakfast last year, performed on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and starred in Amy Poehler's 2021 film, "Moxie." They also were featured on NPR's revered Tiny Desk series and, in December, played their largest hometown show yet at the Fonda Theatre to promote their debut album, "Growing Up."

The band did a "lot of shows" last year, "so it [felt] like a big celebration with friends," says 16-year-old Lucia de la Garza, reflecting on the group's hometown show.

"We got to have an after-party on the roof," Eloise Wong, 14, adds enthusiastically.

"All our friends were there and it was really fun," says 12-year-old Mila de la Garza.

Between balancing their skyrocketing music careers with their social lives and schoolwork — 18-year-old Bela Salazar graduated from high school in June — the Linda Lindas have gotten used to managing their loaded calendars.

Over the last couple of years, Sundays have typically been reserved for practice, but given that the L.A.-born quartet is taking a short break from performing to work on new music and to prepare for a tour with Paramore, the Linda Lindas will have more free time.

The bandmates' perfect Sunday in L.A. looks a lot like the spooky music video for their song "Talking to Myself," which shows them visiting several of their favorite places (minus the vengeful dolls coming to life). The Linda Lindas' rundown of their ideal Sunday, which is brimming with recommendations, has been edited for length and clarity.

8:30 A.M.

HAVE A SLEEPOVER, THEN RACE TO CINDY'S DINER FOR BREAKFAST IN OUR PJS

Bela Salazar (guitar, vocals): We'd have a sleepover at Lucia and Mila's house, then wake up to go to breakfast at **Cindy's** in Eagle Rock.

Lucia de la Garza (guitar, vocals): We'd go out and we'd be wearing our pajamas.

Bela: This isn't breakfast, but I'd eat it for breakfast: I like the falafel there. Also, a slice of apple pie.

Mila de la Garza (drums, percussion and vocals): They don't serve this there for breakfast, but I would get the spaghetti with no meatballs.

Eloise Wong (bass, vocals): Maybe Bela wouldn't finish her food so I'd just kind of eat off of her plate.

Lucia: I'm getting French toast and also a side of potatoes.

Bela: Cindy's is very chill, comfy and bright.

Lucia: And the Key lime pie is excellent there.

Mila: I'd order a glass of orange juice. I'm an orange juice person.

Lucia: She has orange juice on our [tour] rider, so we always have orange juice in the green room.

Eloise: There's so much orange juice! Like two jugs of it and then every show we play when we're on tour, we just accumulate so much orange juice.

10:15 A.M.

VINTAGE SHOPPING IN NORTHEAST L.A.

Lucia: We're going to a vintage shop to get some new outfits.

Eloise: Bela is driving!

Bela: I know how to drive — just not well [laughs]. We like **Leader of the Pack** on York Boulevard in Highland Park.

Lucia: Leader of the Pack has a lot of really cool displays of stuff.

Mila: And accessories.

Lucia: We also like **Kiki Stash** ...

Eloise: ... If we're looking for something special.

Bela: It takes us forever to shop.

Lucia: I find like two things and then I pick one, and wait for them to finish.

Bela: We'd spend an hour and a half in each store.

2 P.M.

COFFEE AND BOBA BREAK

Bela: I would need a coffee. If we're in Highland Park, then there's one place that I will break my pockets for: **Civil Coffee** on Figueroa Street. I'm trying to cut out coffee, but that's the one place that gets an exception. I get the Figueroa drink. There's Mexican cookies called Marias and they put it on top, and it has cinnamon. Or they have good matcha there.

Lucia: The rest of us don't really drink coffee.

Eloise: I think we should get boba at **Minon Cake** [in Chinatown].

Lucia: Recently, I got a coconut strawberry drink, but I'm feeling a bit more chill on Sundays. So I feel like a regular taro, half sweet, less ice, with pudding and no boba.

Mila: I have recently been getting a lychee green tea with lychee coconut jelly and boba, half sweet.

Lucia: Minon Cakes' crepe cakes are also good. We like the mango [flavor].

Eloise: I just get jasmine tea with boba.

2:30 P.M.

LUNCH AT JADE WOK

Lucia: After getting boba, we're going to go to **Jade Wok**, which is a restaurant in Chinatown.

Eloise: We would definitely get their tofu because they make it there. We'd get the one with the meat sauce on it.

Bela: They have Thai tea there, right?

Eloise: But we just got boba!

Bela: But I would need my second one [laughs].

Eloise: Whatever drink you get is buy one, get one free, so we'd get two Thai teas for the price of one.

Bela: So I'd get a Thai tea. We'll have to stop at least four times for my caffeine. That's a day-to-day thing for me.

Lucia: I'm saving mine for later. And Mila likes the tomato egg from Jade Wok.

Eloise: We also like their spare ribs.

Bela: I'll eat the ribs. Mila is fully vegetarian. Eloise and Lucia eat meat sometimes.

Lucia: I don't eat red meat.

Bela: I eat everything.

3:30 P.M.

SING THROWBACK SONGS AT MAX KARAOKE STUDIO

Eloise: We're going to do karaoke at Max Karaoke Studio.

Mila: [Some of our go-to songs are] "Dancing Queen" by ABBA.

Eloise: "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap" by AC/DC.

Lucia: "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" by Cindy Lauper.

Mila: We also do a few songs all together.

4:30 P.M.

A QUICK DESSERT BREAK IN THE JAPANESE VILLAGE PLAZA MALL

Lucia: We'd go to **Cafe Dulce**. They have doughnut-type things. Bela is not a doughnut person.

Eloise: I feel like I would be full.

Mila: I would get a water [laughs]. I'm not a huge doughnut person either, so I might instead walk to the matcha place for matcha soft-serve ice cream. It's so good.

Lucia: At Cafe Dulce, the dinosaur eggs are good. They're not very sweet and they're kind of chewy. They have kind of a mochi dough texture. All of their stuff is good.

4:45 P.M.

DRIVE TO PASADENA TO VISIT VROMAN'S BOOKSTORE

Lucia: Let's go to Pasadena. I want to go to **Vroman's Bookstore.**

Bela: Vroman's has a coffee shop [laughs].

Mila: And good books.

Lucia: I think Vroman's keeps very updated on new books that are coming out. There's like a green color palette going on, which is always nice.

Mila: Green is my favorite color. And our first show as the Linda Lindas was there. I'd get a young-adult fantasy book.

Lucia: I usually stick to fiction, but sometimes I stray from that. I read a lot. Right now, I'm reading a short-story collection that I got in Chicago called "Medusa's Ankles" and also "A Study in Charlotte," which is a more current-day retelling of the Sherlock Holmes book.

5:45 P.M.

ROLLER-SKATING AT MOONLIGHT ROLLERWAY

Mila: We'd go to **Moonlight Rollerway**.

Bela: It's a classic.

Lucia: It's not a good place to go when it's really hot.

Bela: But everybody has their birthday parties there.

Mila: I had a birthday party there when I was like 5.

7:45 P.M.

DINNER AT ROSTY PERUVIAN FOOD BEFORE A SHOW

Lucia: We're going to **Rosty Peruvian Food** on Figueroa Street. The rice and beans are good. They get the plantains.

Bela: Also, their lomo saltado and the chicha morada drink.

Lucia: We'd eat at Rosty because it's like down the street from the Lodge Room.

Eloise: And somehow Sleater-Kinney would be playing there. The opening band would start probably around 9 p.m. or something and then it would be done around midnight.

12 A.M.

WATCH "HOME ALONE" AND EAT JENI'S SPLENDID ICE CREAM

Lucia: Then we'd each grab a pint of ice cream from **Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams**.

Mila: We better not have school the next day.

Bela: I like Brambleberry Crisp.

Mila: I like the Savannah Buttermint one. That one is seasonal, but on our ideal Sunday, they would have it.

Lucia: Eloise likes the Brown Butter Almond Brittle one. My go-to is the Wildberry Lavender.

Mila: I would fall asleep during the movie and in the car. I'd eat my ice cream later.

In Sunday Funday, L.A. people give us a play-by-play of their ideal Sunday around town. Find ideas and inspiration on where to go, what to eat and how to enjoy life on the weekends.

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L.A. AFFAIRS

Opening up to my bisexuality

MARRIAGE TO A MAN DIDN’T END MY CURIOSITY

BY LEAH FOLTA

I’VE HAD AN open marriage for a year and a half now. Katie was the first woman on a dating app to ask me out. She was a medical researcher who was direct, funny and wrote “haha” when I made jokes. I was so smitten that I didn’t even care I’d have to drive to the Westside to meet her.

I always thought that I wasn’t bi “enough” to identify that way, but on the apps, I was having what I’ve been told is a typical bisexual experience. Dating men was like trying to find hay in a needle stack, but dating women reminded me of a meteor shower in Palm Springs I stayed up to watch years ago. I saw a handful of evasive, shy shooting stars out of the corner of my eye, and by the time I glanced in the right direction, they were already gone.

My first date with a woman was with Gretchen, a tall artist from a showbiz family. It turned out to be her first date with a woman too, but our chat over ice cream in Larchmont Village not only had no spark, it was such a chemistry void that I went home feeling like I’d forgotten what it’s like to be attracted to anybody at all.

My one-night stand with a 25-year-old executive was a ton of fun, but the frequency with which she used the word “vibes” as its own one-word sentence really highlighted our generation gap. We mutually ghosted each other. Nevertheless, my interest in *shes* persisted. On TikTok, a creator I like, who’s known for her lesbian thirst traps, began remarking on how many of her followers were women in “straight” marriages. Was I having so much trouble dating women because I was just a run-of-the-mill straight interloping fraud, and the real queer community could tell?

I grew up boy-crazy in sleepy, sterile Orange County. I’d thought vaguely since high school that I wanted to have a relationship with a woman someday, but I had my hands full (or, more accurately, completely empty) pursuing far more plentiful, visible straight guys. I moved to L.A. for college and fooled around once with a woman, fueled by the cheapest of light beers. The experience didn’t light my fire. My first boyfriend, a beautiful golden retriever man and the love of my life, became my husband, and the rest was hetero-passing history until we decided to experiment with nonmonogamy and explore our bi-curiosity.

As for Katie, she invited me to a bar that she mentioned was right next to her place in Santa Monica, a detail that made me spend extra time deciding what underwear to put on. She had a beautiful grin that wasn’t in her pictures, had curves like a Renaissance painting, and was easy to talk to.

On a warm Thursday night, I could smell the ocean from our table outside as she told me about being polyamorous in New York before moving to L.A. for work. She also was married to a man but exclusively dating women. She was much more successful at it than I was. I didn’t detect any flirtiness from her, especially when she yawned and mentioned an early doctor’s appointment the next morning. Then again, she casually mentioned I was “gorgeous.”

I’d heard jokes before about how newbies to same-sex dating can have a tough time feeling out a friend hang or a friendly date. I can’t stand ambiguity. I worried that asking bluntly for her feelings would kill my chances if she was just making up her mind about me. We were both surprised to hear it was last call at 9:45 p.m., and I thought it would clarify things to ask if she wanted to take a walk to the beach or get some sleep.

Her answer didn’t clarify things. She said the beach was kind of far, but we could start walking there and see if we made it. On our walk, we chatted about her fascinating job and our other partners. I overshared about my family (nice one, me!), and it felt as if we quickly arrived at the cement fence above Pacific Coast Highway.

ERICA JACOBSON For The Times

Listening to the waves, I thought it seemed like the kind of spot you’d go if you wanted your date to make a move. As we talked, I took a half-step in her direction, but she took an equal half-step away. We were lingering, but her body was turned to the ocean. I’m not a night owl and finally just had to know what she was thinking.

“Well, we should probably get you to bed,” I said. “And I want to kiss you but I don’t know if you want that.” Without missing a beat, she threw her arms open and welcomed me toward her.

She kissed me very slowly and intensely, with decisive hands gently commanding my head. Here was the fire! All the ambiguity and “maybe this is a friend hang” and “maybe I’m just a bi-curious pretender” easily melted away as we made out. The drive to Santa Monica suddenly seemed like the smallest inconvenience, and on the walk back to my car, I was giddy and light.

In retrospect, maybe my urge to keep trying all this time was the only sign I needed that my bisexuality was real. I hope I keep seeing Katie, but in any case, I feel as if I got to experience looking at a shooting star for the first time.

>The author is one half of a comedy screenwriting team with Lia Woodward. She lives in West Hollywood with her husband, Tim Herrold. She’s on TikTok @newtononmonogamy and Instagram @leahfolta.

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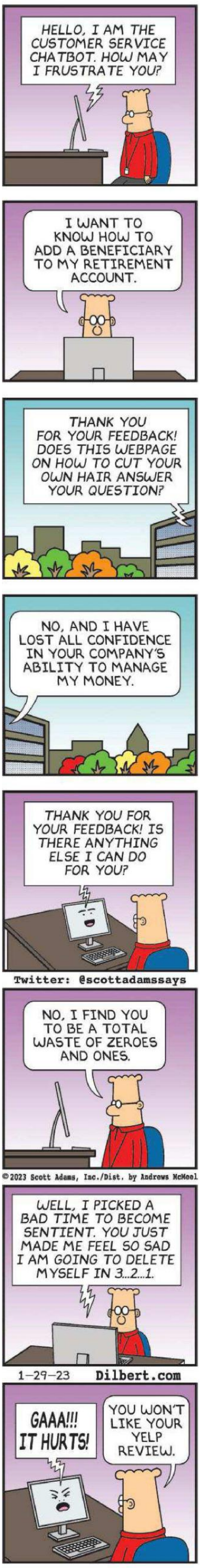
SUNDAY COMICS

DILBERT
By Scott Adams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THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK! IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I CAN DO FOR YOU?
NO, I FIND YOU TO BE A TOTAL WASTE OF ZEROES AND ONES.
WELL, I PICKED A BAD TIME TO BECOME SENTIENT. YOU JUST MADE ME FEEL SO SAD I AM GOING TO DELETE MYSELF IN 3...2...1.
GAAA!!! IT HURTS!
YOU WON'T LIKE YOUR YELP REVIEW.

Twitter: @scottadamssays

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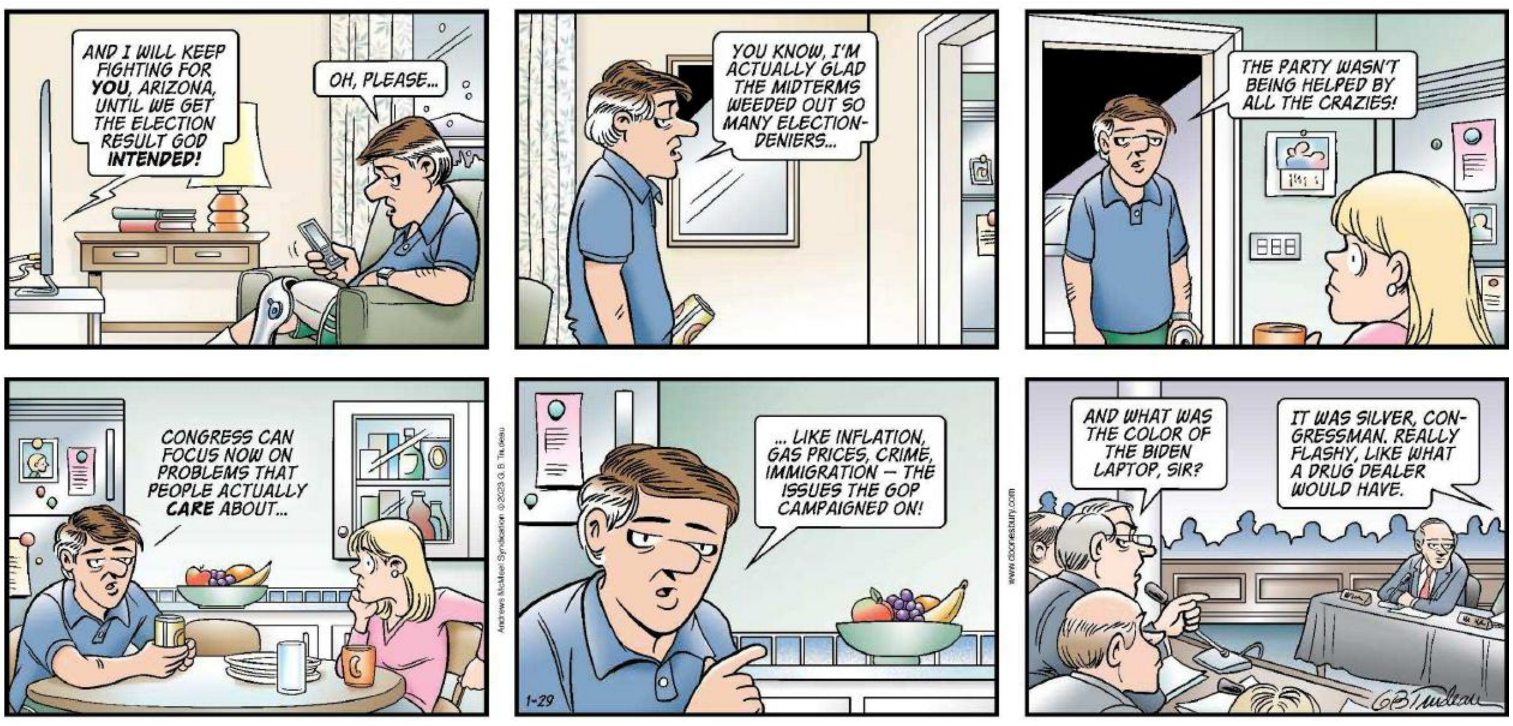
1–29–23 Dilbert.com

DOONESBURY By Garry Trudeau


AND I WILL KEEP FIGHTING FOR YOU, ARIZONA, UNTIL WE GET THE ELECTION RESULT GOD INTENDED!
OH, PLEASE...
YOU KNOW, I'M ACTUALLY GLAD THE MIDTERMS WEEDED OUT SO MANY ELECTION-DENIERS...
THE PARTY WASN'T BEING HELPED BY ALL THE CRAZIES!
CONGRESS CAN FOCUS NOW ON PROBLEMS THAT PEOPLE ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT...
... LIKE INFLATION, GAS PRICES, CRIME, IMMIGRATION — THE ISSUES THE GOP CAMPAIGNED ON!
AND WHAT WAS THE COLOR OF THE BIDEN LAPTOP, SIR?
IT WAS SILVER, CONGRESSMAN. REALLY FLASHY, LIKE WHAT A DRUG DEALER WOULD HAVE.
1-29
GBTrudeau

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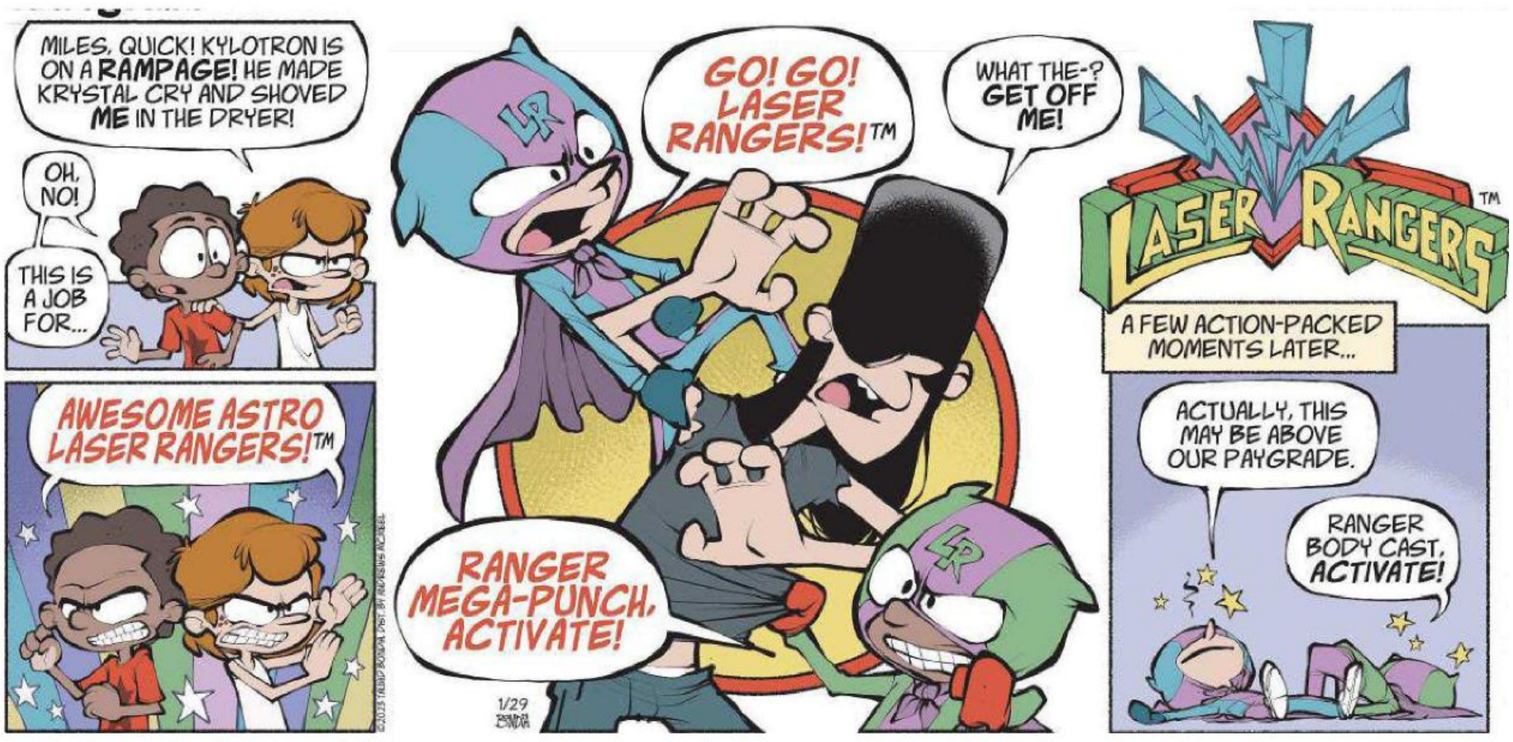
www.doonesbury.com

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia


MILES, QUICK! KYLOTRON IS ON A RAMPAGE! HE MADE KRYSTAL CRY AND SHOVED ME IN THE DRYER!
OH, NO!
THIS IS A JOB FOR...
AWESOME ASTRO LASER RANGERS!™
GO! GO! LASER RANGERS!™
WHAT THE-? GET OFF ME!
RANGER MEGA-PUNCH, ACTIVATE!
LR
LASER RANGERS™
A FEW ACTION-PACKED MOMENTS LATER...
ACTUALLY, THIS MAY BE ABOVE OUR PAYGRADE.
RANGER BODY CAST, ACTIVATE!
1/29
BONDIA

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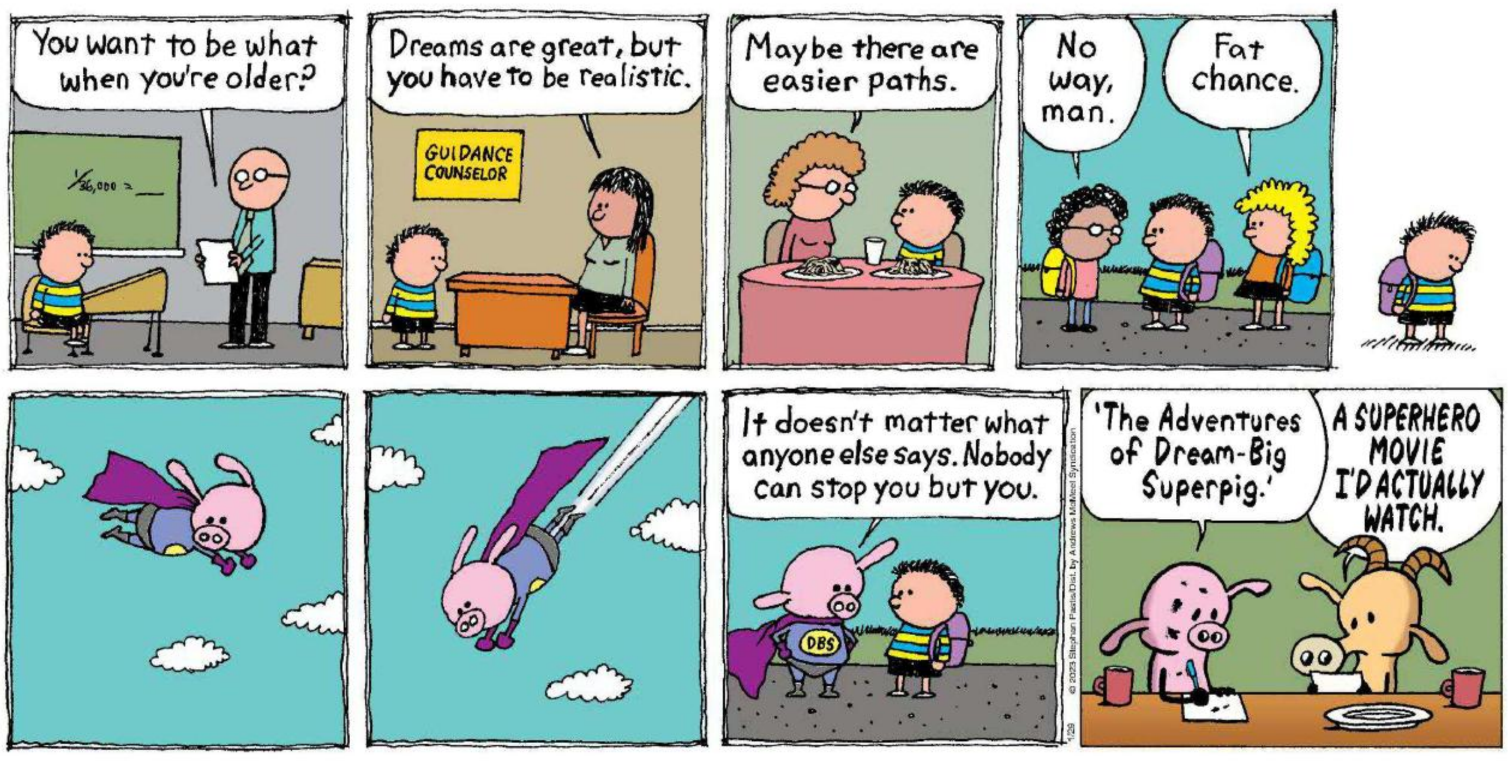
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis


You want to be what when you're older?
1/36,000 = ___
Dreams are great, but you have to be realistic.
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
Maybe there are easier paths.
No way, man.
Fat chance.
It doesn't matter what anyone else says. Nobody can stop you but you.
DBS
'The Adventures of Dream-Big Superpig.'
A SUPERHERO MOVIE I'D ACTUALLY WATCH.
1/29

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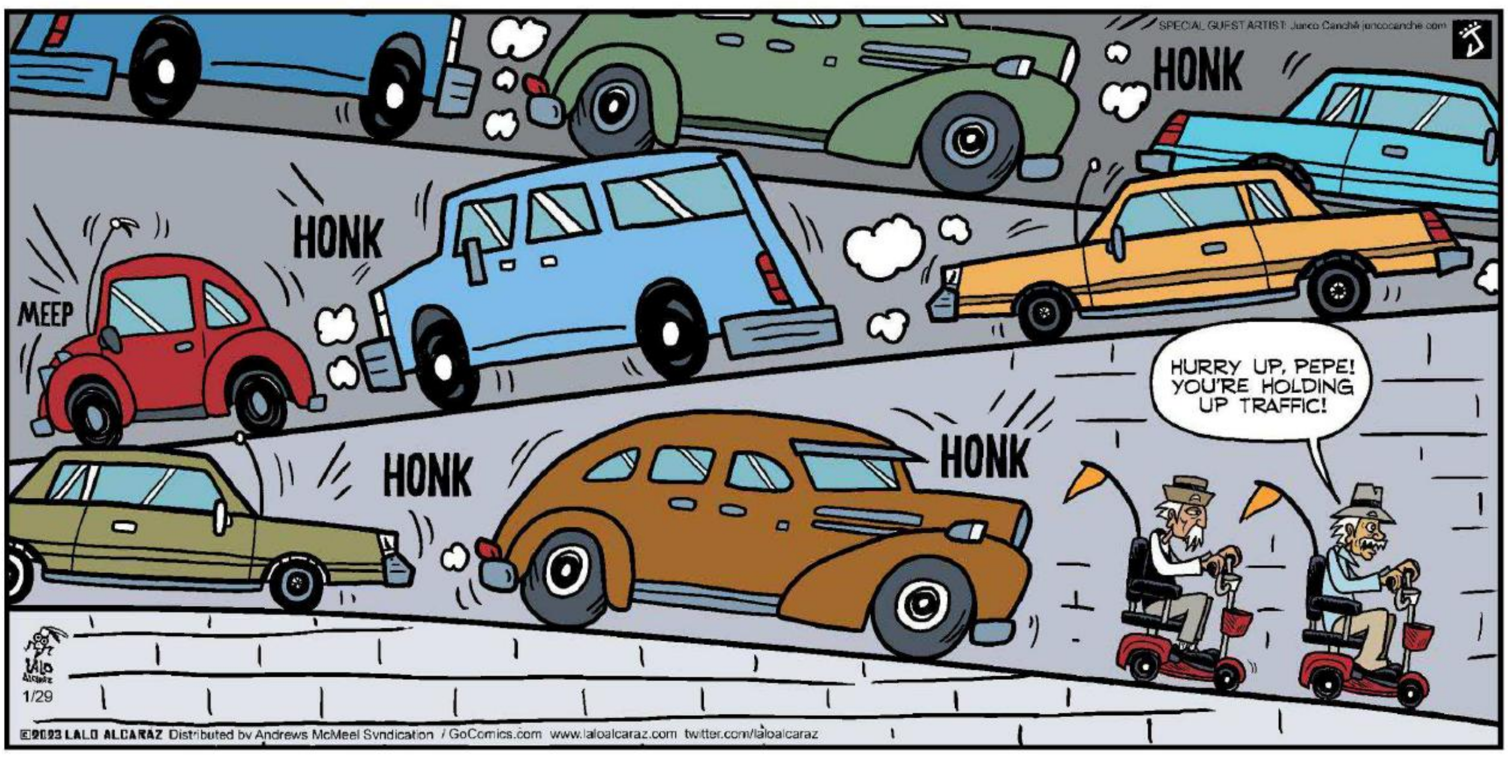
LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz


HONK
HONK
MEEP
HONK
HONK
HURRY UP, PEPE! YOU'RE HOLDING UP TRAFFIC!
LALO ALCARAZ
1/29

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST: Junco Canché juncocanche.com

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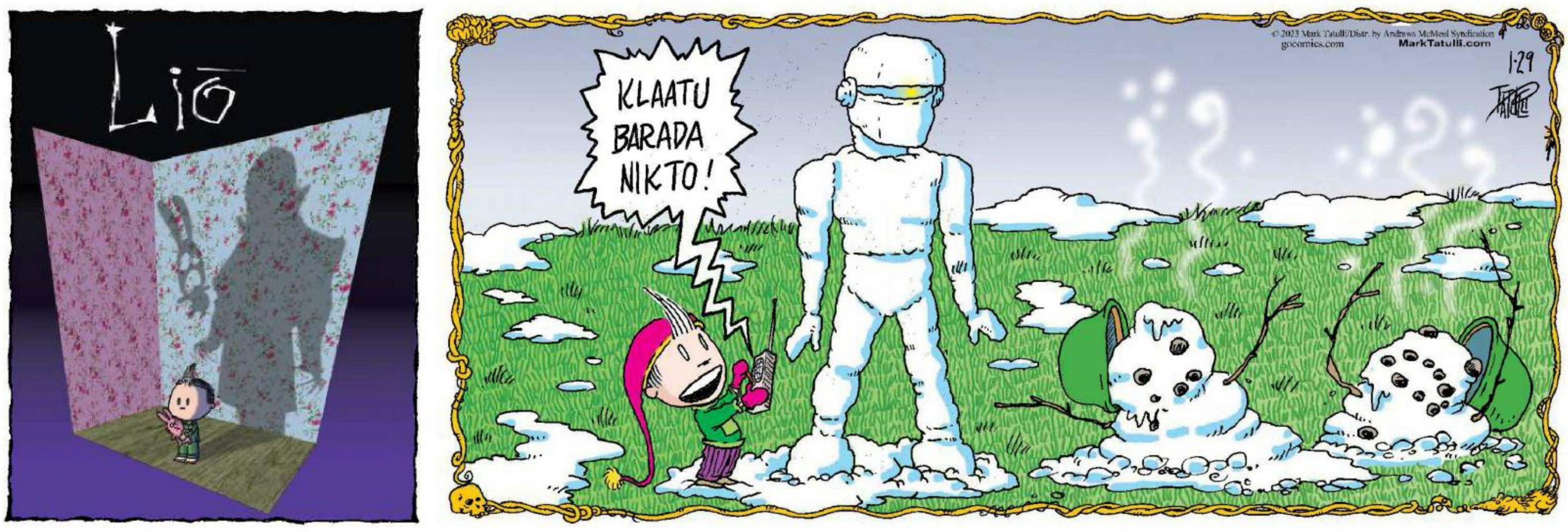
Lio
KLAATU BARADA NIKTO!
1·29
TATULLI

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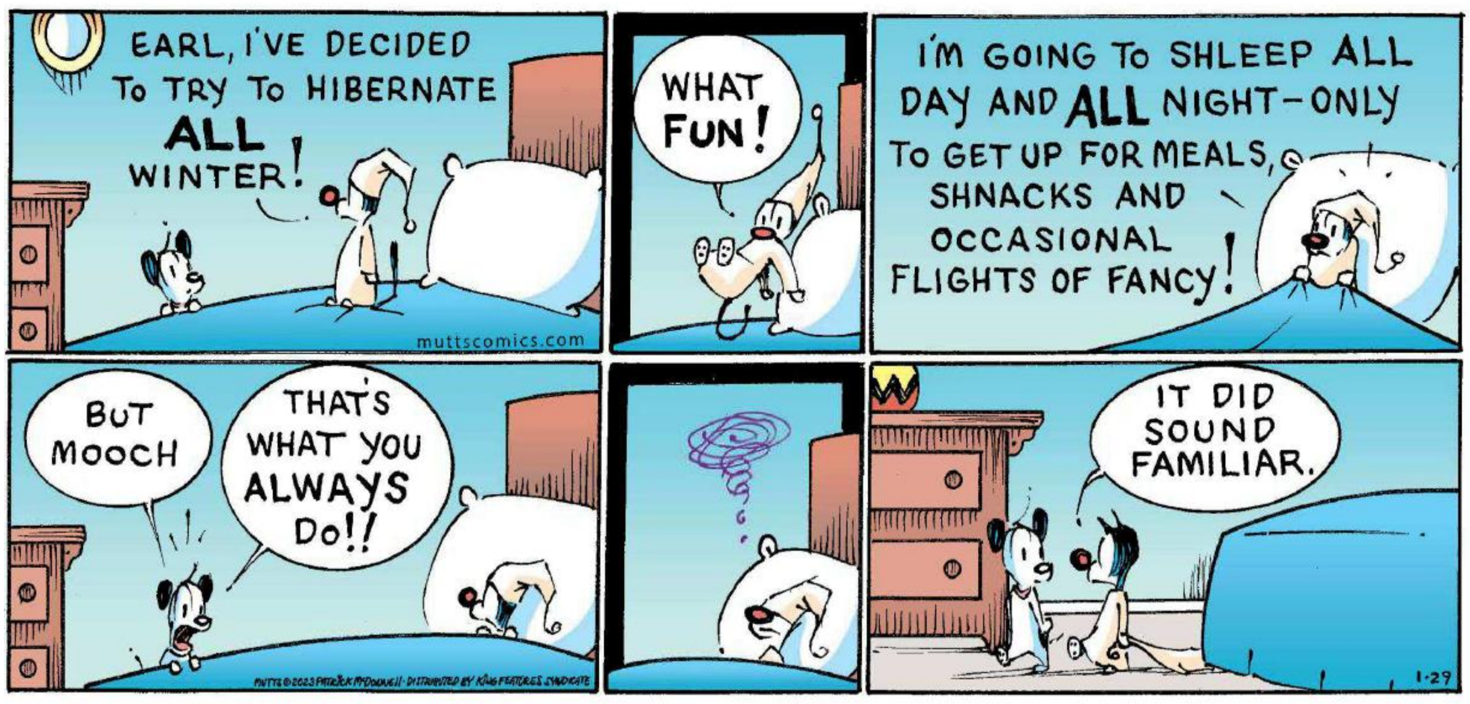
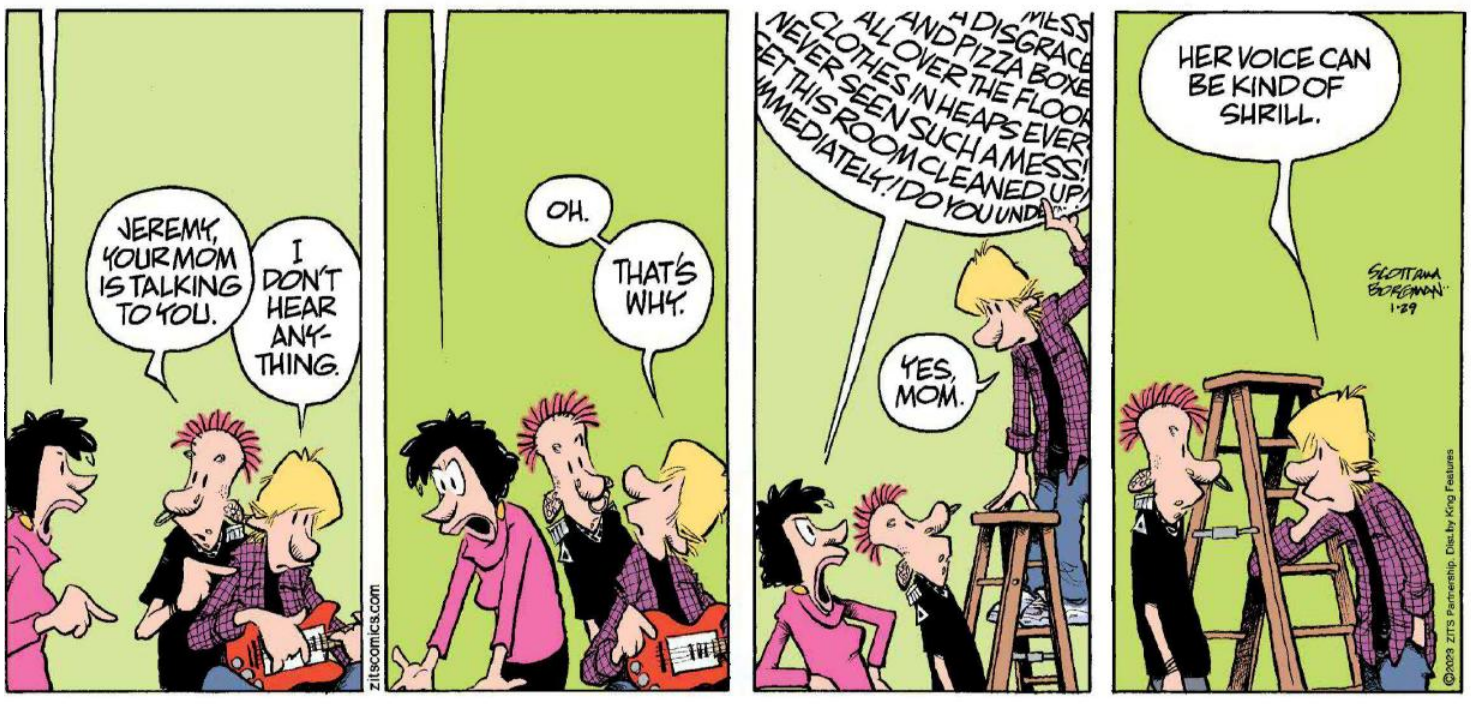
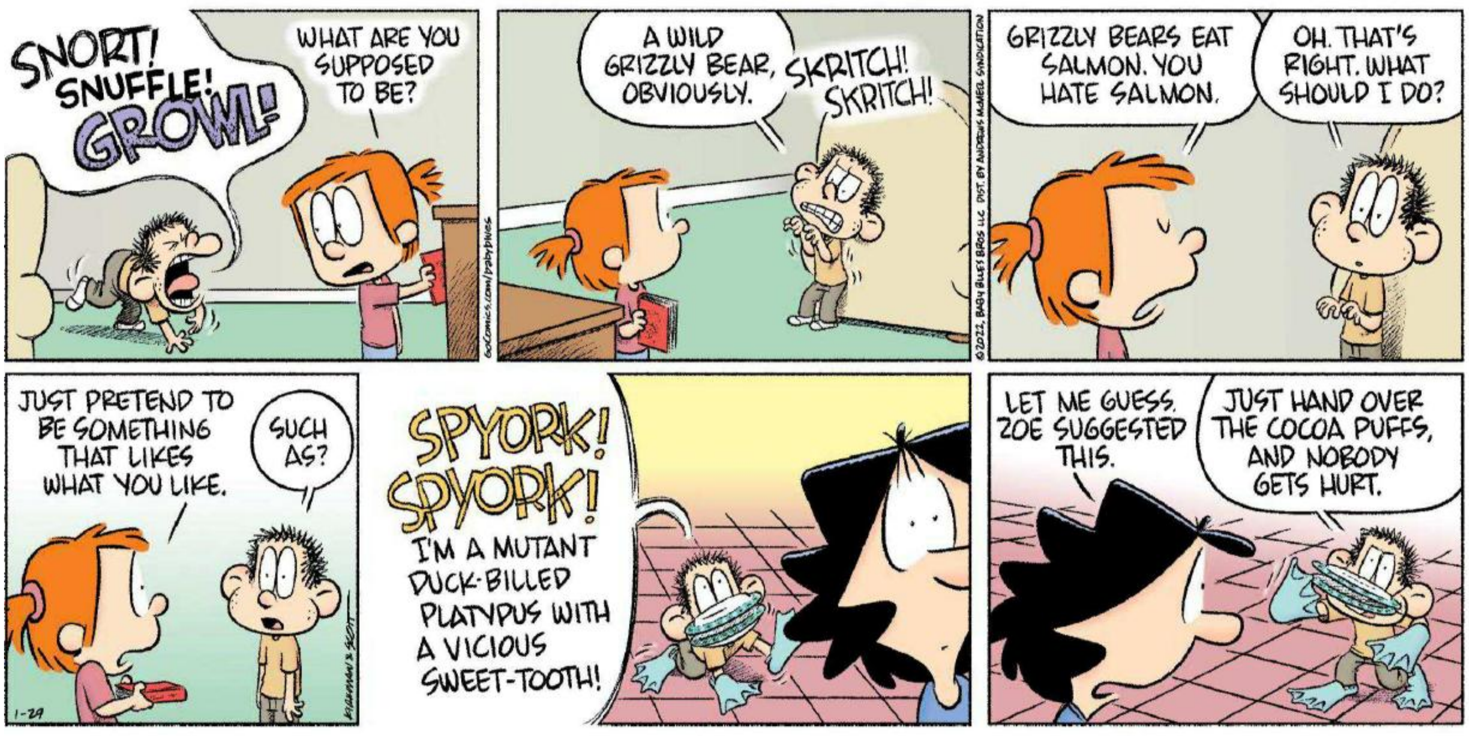
MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell


EARL, I'VE DECIDED TO TRY TO HIBERNATE ALL WINTER!
WHAT FUN!
I'M GOING TO SHLEEP ALL DAY AND ALL NIGHT—ONLY TO GET UP FOR MEALS, SHNACKS AND OCCASIONAL FLIGHTS OF FANCY!
muttscomics.com
BUT MOOCH
THAT'S WHAT YOU ALWAYS DO!!
IT DID SOUND FAMILIAR.
MUTTS © 2023 PATRICK McDONNELL · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
1·29

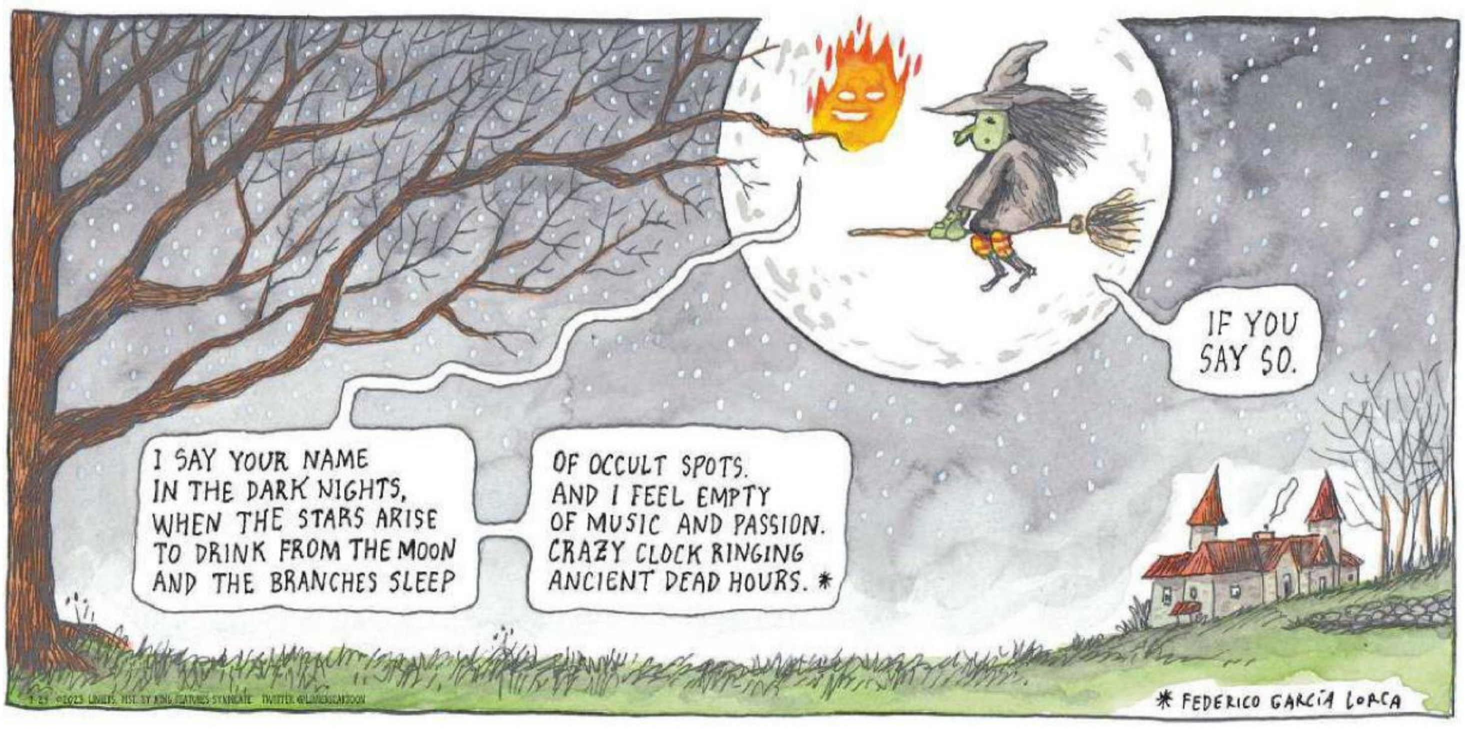
ZITS By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

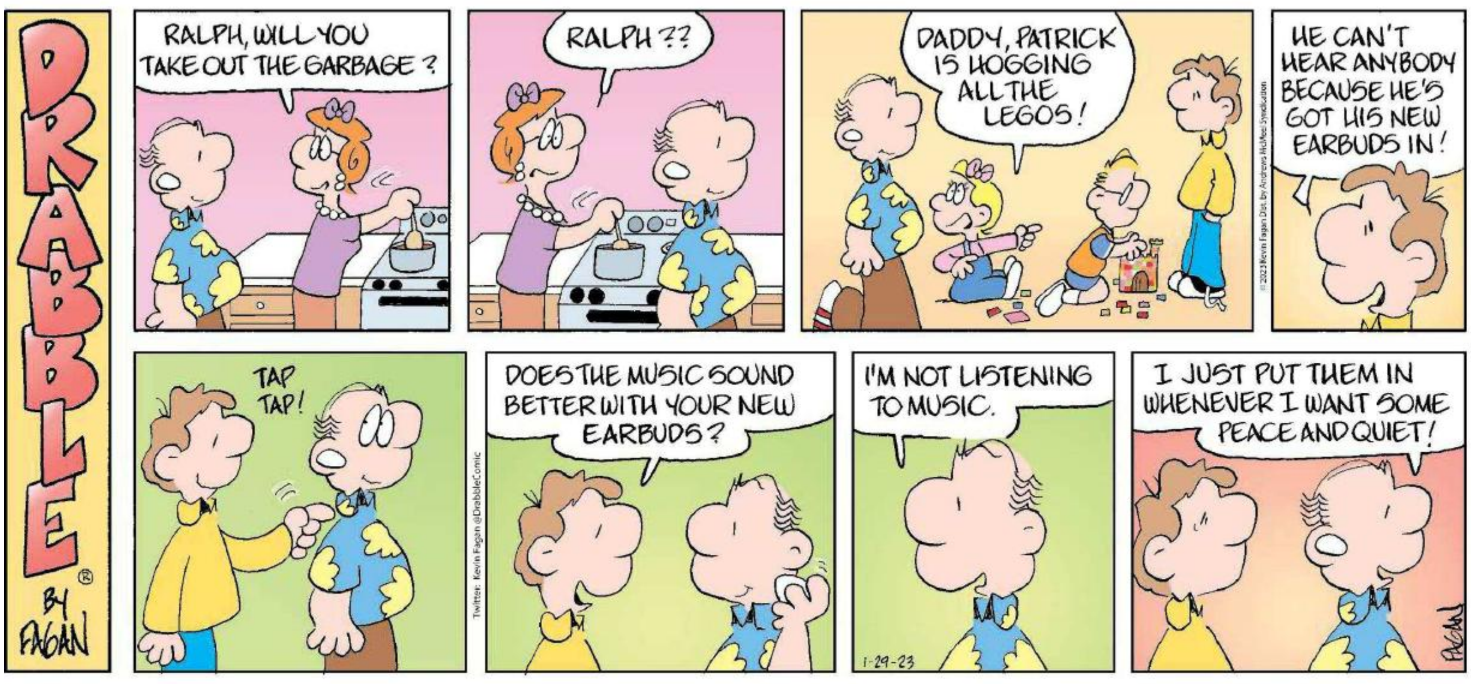

JEREMY, YOUR MOM IS TALKING TO YOU.
I DON'T HEAR ANY-THING.
zitscomics.com
OH.
THAT'S WHY.
A MESS AND A DISGRACE CLOTHES ALL OVER THE FLOOR AND PIZZA BOXES NEVER SEEN IN HEAPS EVER SUCH A MESS! GET THIS ROOM CLEANED UP IMMEDIATELY! DO YOU UNDE
YES, MOM.
HER VOICE CAN BE KIND OF SHRILL.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN 1·29
©2023 ZITS Partnership. Dist. by King Features

BABY BLUES By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott

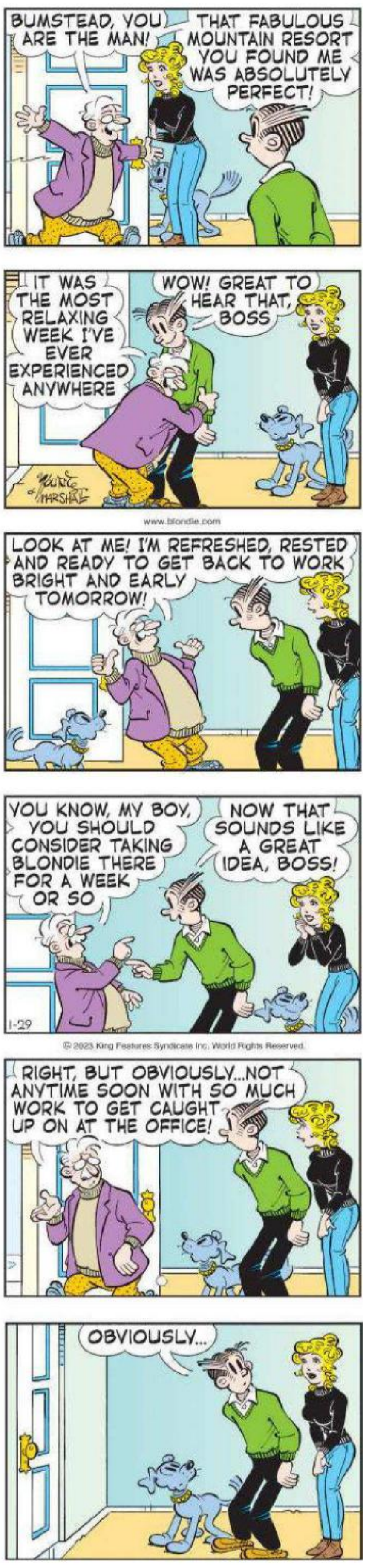

SNORT! SNUFFLE! GROWL!
WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE?
GoComics.com/babyblues
A WILD GRIZZLY BEAR, OBVIOUSLY.
SKRITCH! SKRITCH!
©2022, BABY BLUES BROS LLC DIST. BY ANDREWS McMEEL SYNDICATION
GRIZZLY BEARS EAT SALMON. YOU HATE SALMON.
OH. THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
JUST PRETEND TO BE SOMETHING THAT LIKES WHAT YOU LIKE.
SUCH AS?
1-29
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
SPYORK! SPYORK! I'M A MUTANT DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS WITH A VICIOUS SWEET-TOOTH!
LET ME GUESS. ZOE SUGGESTED THIS.
JUST HAND OVER THE COCOA PUFFS, AND NOBODY GETS HURT.

MACANUDO By Liniers


I SAY YOUR NAME IN THE DARK NIGHTS, WHEN THE STARS ARISE TO DRINK FROM THE MOON AND THE BRANCHES SLEEP
OF OCCULT SPOTS. AND I FEEL EMPTY OF MUSIC AND PASSION. CRAZY CLOCK RINGING ANCIENT DEAD HOURS. *
IF YOU SAY SO.
1-29 ©2023 LINIERS. DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE TWITTER @LINIERSCARTOON
* FEDERICO GARCÍA LORCA


DRABBLE® BY FAGAN
RALPH, WILL YOU TAKE OUT THE GARBAGE?
RALPH??
DADDY, PATRICK IS HOGGING ALL THE LEGOS!
©2023 Kevin Fagan Dist. by Andrews McMeel Syndication
HE CAN'T HEAR ANYBODY BECAUSE HE'S GOT HIS NEW EARBUDS IN!
TAP TAP!
Twitter: Kevin Fagan @DrabbleComic
DOES THE MUSIC SOUND BETTER WITH YOUR NEW EARBUDS?
I'M NOT LISTENING TO MUSIC.
1-29-23
I JUST PUT THEM IN WHENEVER I WANT SOME PEACE AND QUIET!
FAGAN

BLONDIE
By Dean Young & John Marshall


BUMSTEAD, YOU ARE THE MAN!
THAT FABULOUS MOUNTAIN RESORT YOU FOUND ME WAS ABSOLUTELY PERFECT!
IT WAS THE MOST RELAXING WEEK I'VE EVER EXPERIENCED ANYWHERE
WOW! GREAT TO HEAR THAT, BOSS
YOUNG & MARSHALL
www.blondie.com
LOOK AT ME! I'M REFRESHED, RESTED AND READY TO GET BACK TO WORK BRIGHT AND EARLY TOMORROW!
YOU KNOW, MY BOY, YOU SHOULD CONSIDER TAKING BLONDIE THERE FOR A WEEK OR SO
NOW THAT SOUNDS LIKE A GREAT IDEA, BOSS!
1-29
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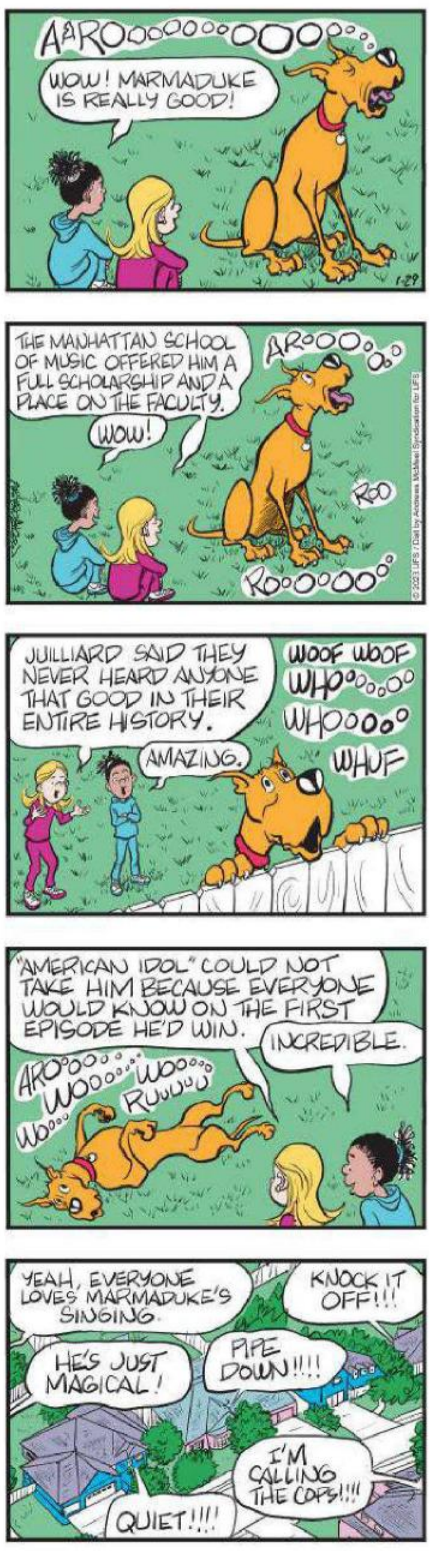
RIGHT, BUT OBVIOUSLY...NOT ANYTIME SOON WITH SO MUCH WORK TO GET CAUGHT UP ON AT THE OFFICE!
OBVIOUSLY...

MARMADUKE
By Brad & Paul Anderson


AARoooooooOOOooo
WOW! MARMADUKE IS REALLY GOOD!
1-29
THE MANHATTAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC OFFERED HIM A FULL SCHOLARSHIP AND A PLACE ON THE FACULTY.
WOW!
AROOOooo
ROO
ROooOOOo
© 2023 UFS / Dist by Andrews McMeel Syndication for UFS
JUILLIARD SAID THEY NEVER HEARD ANYONE THAT GOOD IN THEIR ENTIRE HISTORY.
AMAZING.
WOOF WOOF
WHOoooOo
WHOOOoo
WHUF
"AMERICAN IDOL" COULD NOT TAKE HIM BECAUSE EVERYONE WOULD KNOW ON THE FIRST EPISODE HE'D WIN.
INCREDIBLE.
AROoooo
WOOooo
WOoooo
RUuuuu
Wooo
YEAH, EVERYONE LOVES MARMADUKE'S SINGING.
KNOCK IT OFF!!!
HE'S JUST MAGICAL!
PIPE DOWN!!!!
I'M CALLING THE COPS!!!
QUIET!!!!

DOG GONE FUNNY

CHARLES MAY'S SHIH-TZU MIX, ABBY, SHARED THE HOUSE WITH THREE CATS WHO BULLIED HIM UNMERCIFULLY. ABBY WENT INTO A BEDROOM WITH LOTS OF STUFFED TOY ANIMALS AND PULLED OUT ALL THE DOGS. ABBY LINED THEM UP AND PLOPPED DOWN IN THE MIDDLE OF THEM. THE OUTNUMBERED CATS LEFT ABBY ALONE.

HOROSCOPE

Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): It's not every day you get to come first, but that's what will happen. You'll get the best seat, and it's as though the whole show is just for you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You've done the work and you know the opportunities are out there, so it's just a matter of time before you meet up with your destiny. Keep making your pitches. A prime connection is coming.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): You love all kinds of problems today. Today's solution requires creativity, of which you'll have plenty.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Wanting is best done in moderation. You can't control what you want, but you can change your environment and eliminate the cues that keep you thinking about it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You see the minor slights or obstacles as par for the course — insignificant anomalies. You brush them off, as you should, and open your arms to embrace the good stuff.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Some say you can't be successful until you pay your dues, but you don't yet know what the "dues" entail, so you won't know when you're paying them. You may as well just enjoy your work.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You could tell the story of one event in hundreds of different ways. What way will empower you and help you get the resources you'll need for the next story?

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): You have good relationships, but they can be better. The clash shows you what you need and gives you a chance to articulate that.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stretch the boundaries of your imagination to include a wildly idealistic version of the future. The exercise is useful.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): To some degree, personality is a construct that can be reconstructed as you wish. Your next move is influenced by one you admire.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Acting in accordance with your personal system brings health and vitality to all aspects of life. You find peace in being concerned with your own business.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): At times during the day you'll feel like a logical adult. Other moments you experience as a child would, full of fun and playfulness as well as the naive sensitivities of one much younger.

Today's birthday (Jan. 29): Love and kindness are all around you in abundance this year, lending just what you need to go bravely into a new project. You're full of ideas and able to organize them better than ever. Seek the company of talented people. Emotional riches come to you as you extend your network. Capricorn and Sagittarius adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 1, 44, 48, 13, 20.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

Opposite Day

Edited by Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Brian Thomas & Brooke Husic

ACROSS

1 Cat's attention-getter, maybe
4 Car once advertised as a "well-built Swede"
8 Endpoint for some boots and skirts
13 Like cookies soon after the Cookie Monster spots them
18 Equine parent
20 Anti-censorship org.
21 Provençal mayo
22 Only just
23 Drill sergeant, perhaps?
27 New York, for one
28 Lubricate
29 Return
30 Audrey Hopburn letters
31 Distribution parties
34 Ellington composition
35 Inning's trio?
36 Collective action by society women?
41 French bread?
43 Part of an underwater forest
44 One-eighty
45 Movie trailer?
47 Pick up
49 Farm bird that never topples?
55 Wrath
56 Honeycomb unit
57 Rep. from the Bronx
58 WWF, e.g.
59 Mountain goats' terrain
62 Temperamental
63 Org. with the largest-circulation magazine in the U.S.
65 Corner store
66 Amendment proposed by a technophile?
70 Cut and paste, say
71 Ibex range
72 Drops
73 Invite for
74 Gretchen of "Boardwalk Empire"
75 La Liga cheer
76 Contact —
77 Carol contraction
78 Like a typical ride on a mechanical bull?
83 Some Japanese TVs
86 "I don't care!"
87 Terr. divided in 1889
88 Kiwi-shaped
90 Color of Montana's flag
92 Endure within a group of peers?
97 — carte
98 "Hair Love" voice actress Issa
100 Strapless bralette
101 "— Lasso"
102 Passing remark?
104 Slides (over)
107 Hides in plain sight?
109 Death and taxes, per Benjamin Franklin?
114 Contributed
115 French 101 verb
116 Ziggurat level
117 Shoestring catch?
118 Creates a Maillard reaction on a steak, say
119 Gave back, as land
120 Be worthy of
121 Nestlé's —-Caps

DOWN

1 Nintendo : DS :: Sony : —
2 Measure typically given in knots
3 Like some data disks
4 Chili-based Vietnamese condiment
5 The "A" of LGBTQIA+, for short
6 The "A" of 30-Across
7 — cord
8 Maximally vanilla
9 "Howdy there!"
10 Cyclotron particles
11 "I'm rubber, you're — ... "
12 That guy
13 Fired up
14 Prefix with Mexico
15 BOGO deal
16 Weather-affecting Pacific current
17 Politburo nos
19 Noblezada of "Easter Sunday"
24 Bumping heads
25 Drops the ball, say
26 —-free plastic
30 Brief "Beats me!"
32 Fit of pique
33 Great Basin native
34 Sends off the soccer pitch
37 Far from relaxed
38 Color TV pioneer
39 Offline, briefly
40 Kenan's "Good Burger" co-star
42 Sch. that competes against Notre Dame for the Jeweled Shillelagh
46 [Crossing my fingers!]
48 German "first"
49 Bright shades
50 Ye — Shoppe
51 Eschew a co-pilot
52 Real talent
53 Wading bird
54 "Au contraire!"
56 Member-owned grocery
59 Espresso froth
60 Free from
61 Fleet of foot
62 Chemistry class model
63 Filling with wonder
64 Children's song marchers
65 Text in a long-distance relationship, maybe
67 Tibia neighbor
68 Spilled salt, to some
69 Thinking a song is about oneself, say
75 Music store supply
77 Roll the dice, say
79 Pacific Northwest sch.
80 Hawaiian for "white"
81 Texting tech
82 "If we must die, O — us nobly die": McKay
83 Herb used in some smudging rituals
84 Big hands?
85 Word in an Arthur Miller title
87 RPG with a 20-sided die
89 Acid initials
90 Strawberry —
91 Highfalutin
93 "All —!"
94 Rolls in yoga class
95 In the office
96 Word after rage or force
97 — frescas: fruit drinks
99 Passover's month, often: Abbr.
103 Even once
104 Back up
105 Graceless one
106 Four Tops singer Benson
108 Some laptops
110 — fly
111 Spy-fi org.
112 Not 'neath
113 Nwodim of "SNL"

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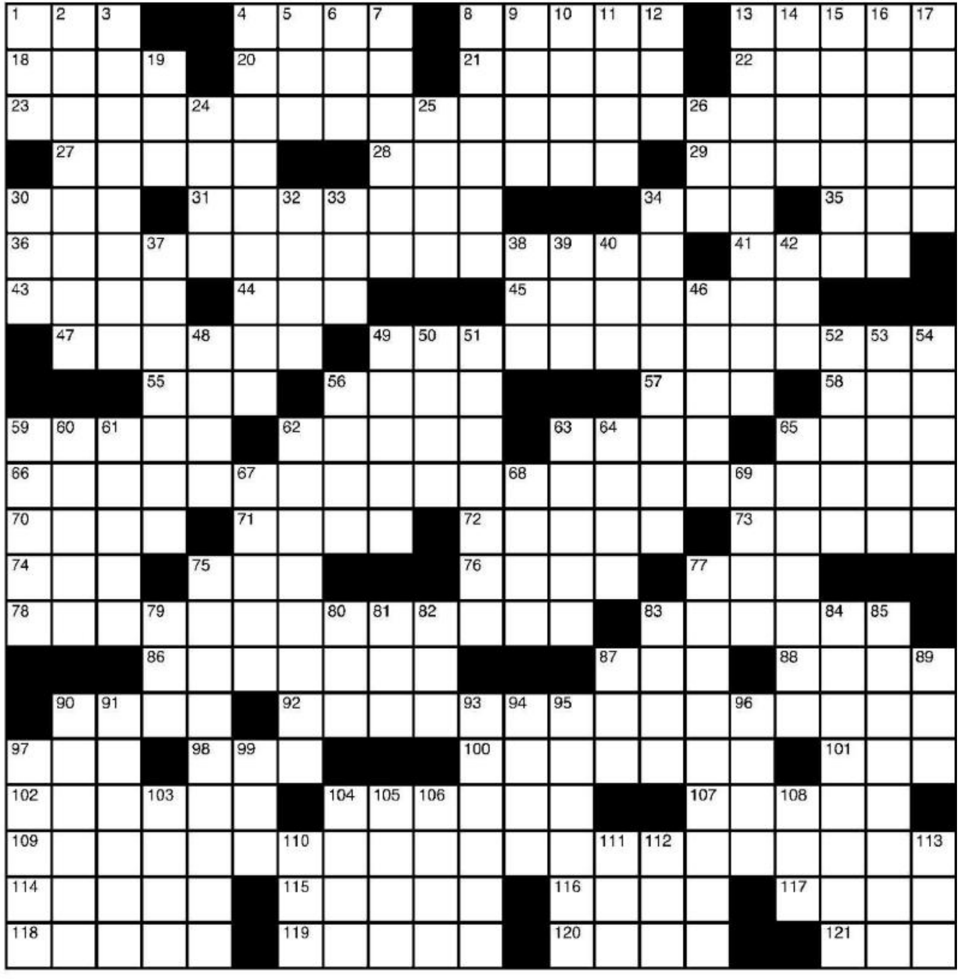
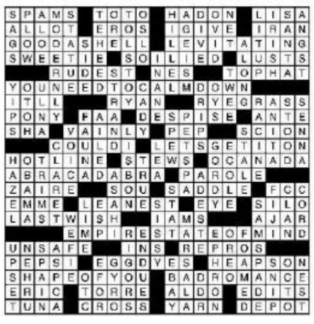


Last week's solution: "Play It Again"



ASK AMY

Dear Amy: I am experiencing an unplanned pregnancy with a stable, loving and supportive partner.

We are in our late 30s and for myriad reasons decided to carry on with the pregnancy and become parents.

We don't make a lot of money and we live in a small apartment, but we know all things are possible and we choose to remain positive.

However, some of my closest friends are reacting in ways I didn't expect.

Some of their responses seem rude at best, and anxiety-inducing at worst.

I understand everyone is justified in feeling a certain way about unplanned pregnancies. Might you have advice for me on how to move past their reactions?

Mixed Reviews

Dear Mixed: Yes, people's varied feelings regarding an unplanned pregnancy are justified; people have a right to their own feelings.

But when it comes to someone else's pregnancy and her choice regarding that pregnancy, people should keep their opinions, concerns or misgivings to themselves. When a woman announces her pregnancy, the response should be positive and supportive.

If someone responded to you in a way that was less than positive and supportive, then that person should connect with you again in order to listen, talk, commiserate (if it comes to that) and offer their support to you.

The empathy should flow from them to you; this is one situation where you should not carry the burden of empathizing with them.

If you need support that you are not receiving, you should bravely ask for it.

The way to move past these reactions is the same way you will experience this pregnancy: one day at a time.

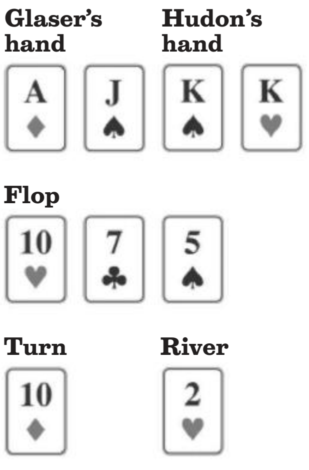
Every day brings new realizations, challenges, joys and excitement. It's important to concentrate more on you and your household, and less on others' opinions.

This is great practice for the first year of baby's life.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

POKER

Chad Holloway



In December, the Wynn Las Vegas hosted the World Poker Tour World Championship. The event attracted 2,960 runners and nearly doubled the guarantee by offering more than a $29-million prize pool. On the sixth day, the final table of six players returned. Everyone was guaranteed over $1 million, but awaiting the champion was a $4,146,400 top prize.

The final table was interesting as four-time World Series of Poker bracelet winner Benny Glaser held a healthy chip lead with an 83 big blind (BB) stack. Eliot Hudon was the next closest with 51 BB, while the other four players ranged from nine to 17 BB. There were big money jumps to be had, which i gave Glaser the opportunity to put pressure on the shorter stacks.

Glaser could afford to be aggressive as his opponents were incentivized to be cautious, especially Hudon, who sat second in chips. As it happened, Glaser won the first three hands of the final table before he moved all-in under the gun on the fourth. With the blinds at 800,000/1,600,000/1,600,000, he was just applying pressure to take advantage of the situation, but then Hudon woke up with a monster and called off for 76,800,000.

The rest of the players folded and Glaser showed the A♦ J♠, which was behind the K♠ K♥ of Hudon. Given how the chips stacked up, Hudon would likely call off with only two hands — kings or aces. He woke up with the former and was a 71.56% favorite, according to a poker odds calculator.

Glaser's best chance at scoring the knockout was to catch an ace, but that didn't happen as the board ran out a clean 10♥ 7♣ 5♠ 10♦ 2♥ to give Hudon the chip lead. Glaser's aggressiveness got the better of him as Hudon was fortunate enough to wake up with the second-best starting hand in poker.

Fittingly, the duo made it to heads-up play. In the final hand, which took place in Level 37 (1,000,000/2,000,000/2,000,000) on Hand No. 55 of the final table, Hudon called from the small blind with the 7♣ 4♦ and Glaser checked his Q♦ J♠ to bring about a flop of 8♥ 6♣ 2♦. Glaser check-called a bet of 2 million and then checked the 9♦ turn. Hudon bet 8 million and Glaser check-raised to 28 million. Hudon called with his straight draw and hit it on the 5♣ river. Glaser bluffed by moving all-in for 59 million and Hudon snap-called.

Glaser finished in second place for $2,830,000 while Hudon became the 2022 WPT World Champion for $4,146,400.

Holloway is a 2013 World Series of Poker bracelet winner.

SUDOKU

Level: Impossible

		6				5	7	
1	2	5		7			3	
7							2	4
			6	4	7			
	5		2		3		4	
			5	8	9			
8	6							1
	1			3		9	6	2
	9	3				4		

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4	1	2	5	9	3	6	8	7
6	3	8	1	2	7	4	9	5
9	7	5	4	6	8	1	2	3
1	8	9	3	5	2	7	6	4
2	6	7	9	1	4	3	5	8
3	5	4	8	7	6	2	1	9
5	2	3	6	4	9	8	7	1
7	4	1	2	8	5	9	3	6
8	9	6	7	3	1	5	4	2

Solution to last week's puzzle

More Online

For other brain-teasing challenges, go to *latimes.com/games*.

Level: Tough

		4		6	9	5		3
			4					
	5					9	4	
			2		1			6
1				7				
9			5		4			
	6	1					2	
					2			
8		5	1	9		4		

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Level: Tough

			6		
		5			1
				2	
	1				
6			4		
3		4			

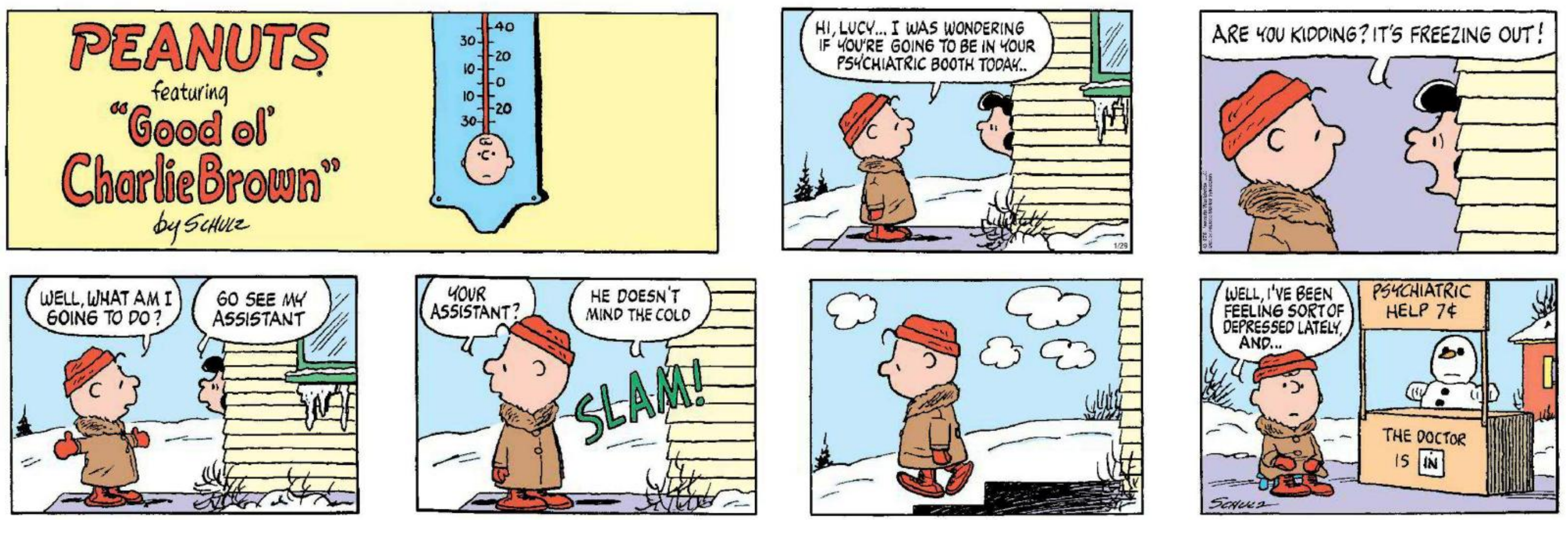
7	4	8	6	2	1	9	5	3
6	5	9	3	4	7	1	2	8
1	3	2	9	8	5	4	6	7
4	2	6	5	7	8	3	1	9
8	1	7	2	3	9	5	4	6
5	9	3	4	1	6	8	7	2
9	6	4	8	5	2	7	3	1
3	8	1	7	6	4	2	9	5
2	7	5	1	9	3	6	8	4

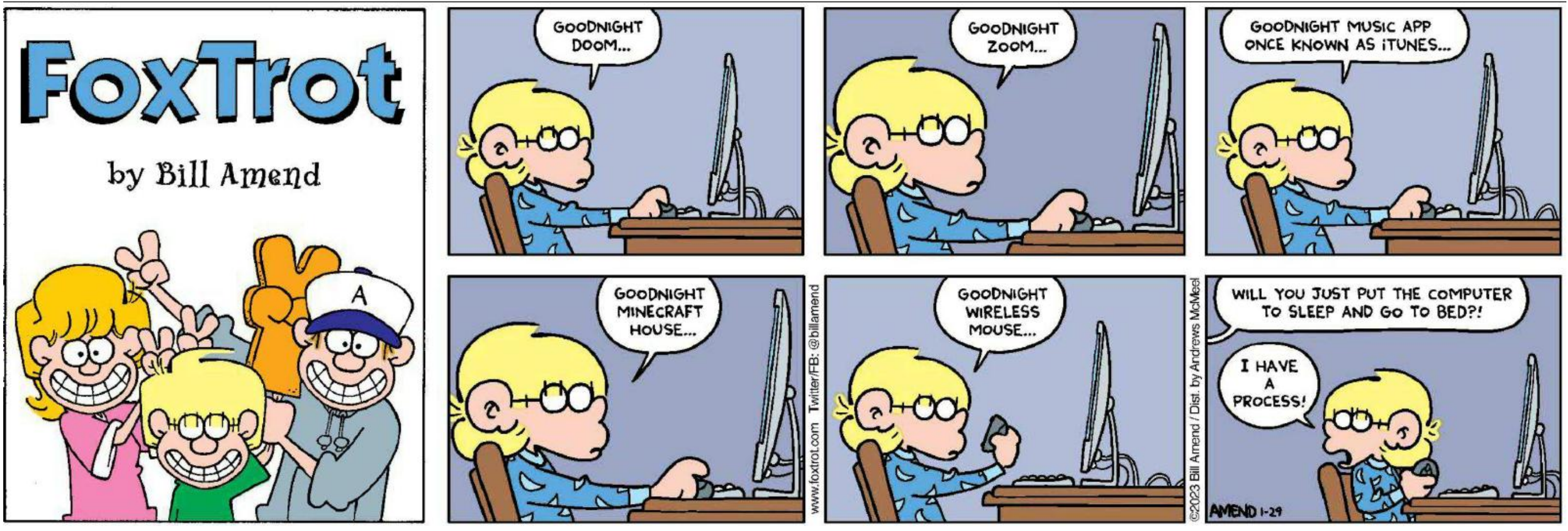
1	5	2	3	4	6
4	3	6	2	1	5
6	2	5	1	3	4
3	4	1	5	6	2
2	1	4	6	5	3
5	6	3	4	2	1

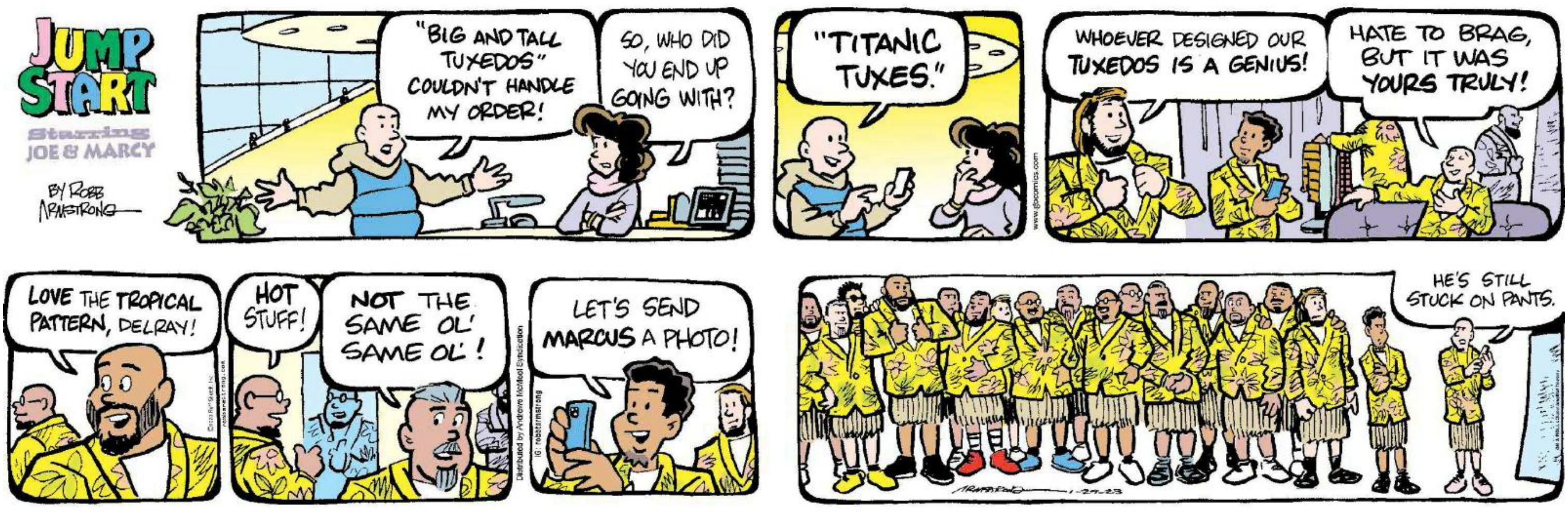
Solutions to Saturday's puzzles

1/29/23

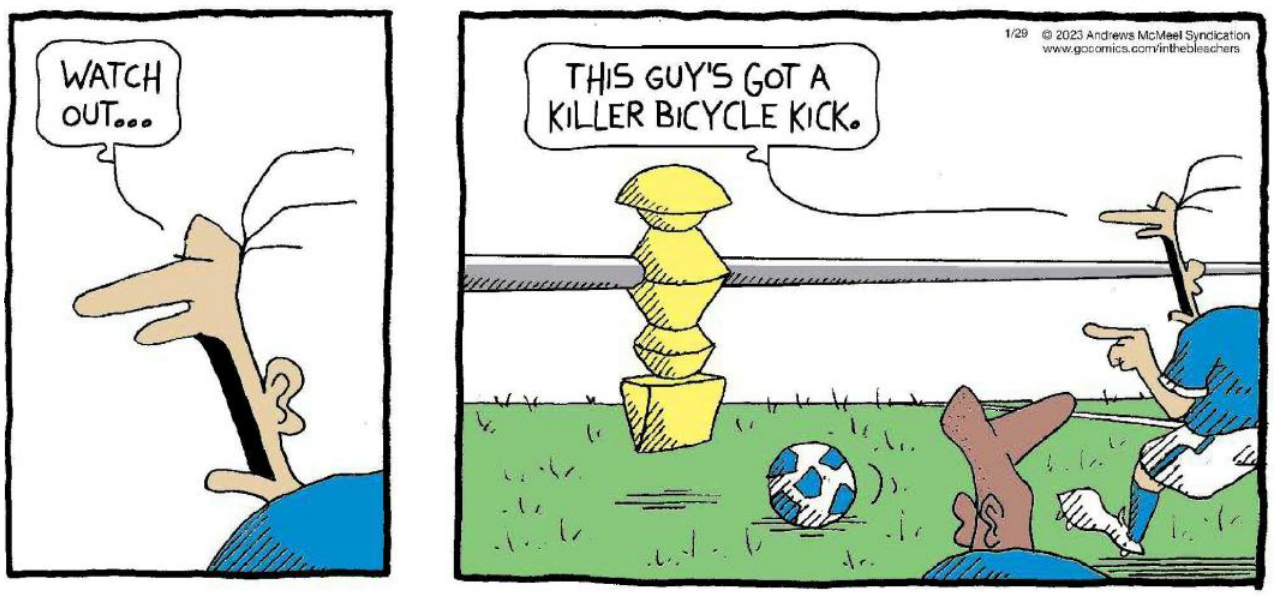
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.


PEANUTS
featuring "Good ol' Charlie Brown"
by SCHULZ
30
10
10
30
40
20
0
20
HI, LUCY... I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN YOUR PSYCHIATRIC BOOTH TODAY..
1/29
ARE YOU KIDDING? IT'S FREEZING OUT!
WELL, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
GO SEE MY ASSISTANT
YOUR ASSISTANT?
HE DOESN'T MIND THE COLD
SLAM!
WELL, I'VE BEEN FEELING SORT OF DEPRESSED LATELY, AND...
PSYCHIATRIC HELP 7¢
THE DOCTOR IS IN
SCHULZ

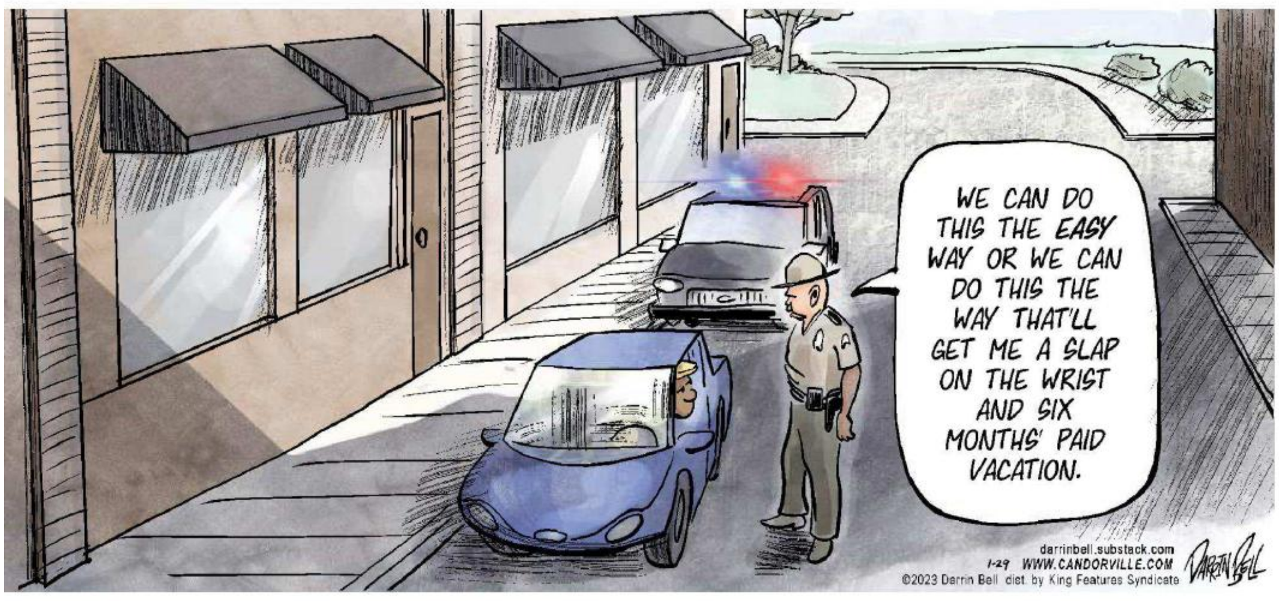

FoxTrot
by Bill Amend
GOODNIGHT DOOM...
GOODNIGHT ZOOM...
GOODNIGHT MUSIC APP ONCE KNOWN AS iTUNES...
GOODNIGHT MINECRAFT HOUSE...
GOODNIGHT WIRELESS MOUSE...
WILL YOU JUST PUT THE COMPUTER TO SLEEP AND GO TO BED?!
I HAVE A PROCESS!
www.foxtrot.com Twitter/FB: @billamend
©2023 Bill Amend / Dist. by Andrews McMeel
AMEND 1-29


JUMP START
Starring JOE & MARCY
BY ROBB ARMSTRONG
"BIG AND TALL TUXEDOS" COULDN'T HANDLE MY ORDER!
SO, WHO DID YOU END UP GOING WITH?
"TITANIC TUXES."
www.gocomics.com
WHOEVER DESIGNED OUR TUXEDOS IS A GENIUS!
HATE TO BRAG, BUT IT WAS YOURS TRULY!
LOVE THE TROPICAL PATTERN, DELRAY!
HOT STUFF!
NOT THE SAME OL' SAME OL'!
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
IG: robbarmstrong
LET'S SEND MARCUS A PHOTO!
HE'S STILL STUCK ON PANTS.
1-29-23

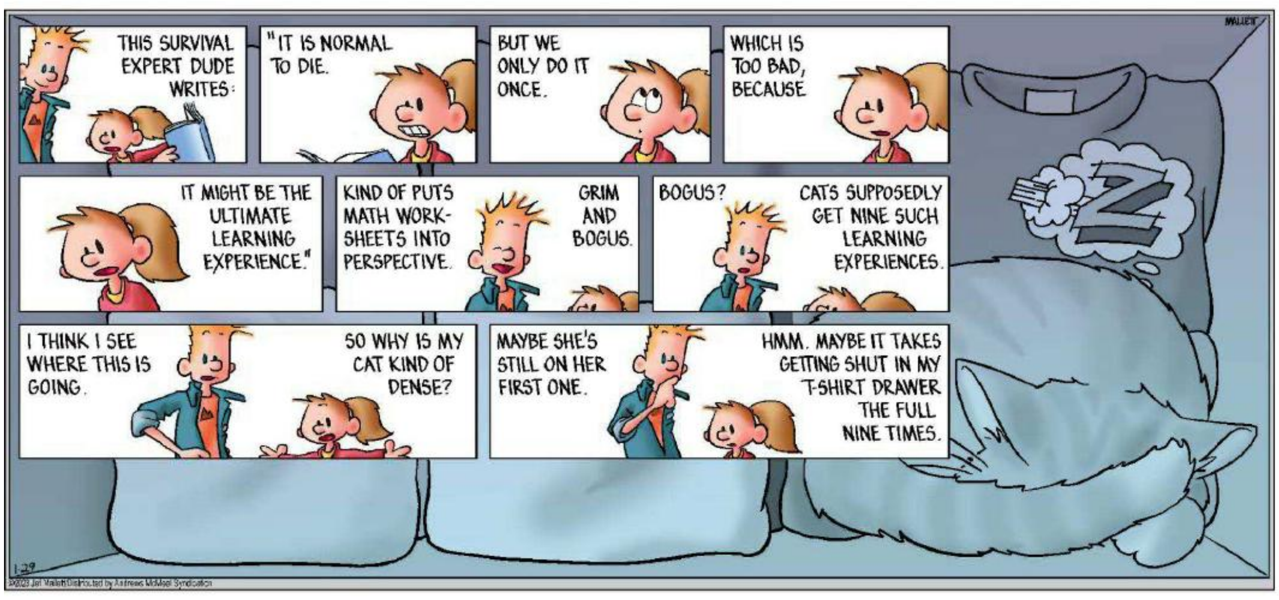
IN THE BLEACHERS By Steve Moore


WATCH OUT...
THIS GUY'S GOT A KILLER BICYCLE KICK.
1/29 © 2023 Andrews McMeel Syndication
www.gocomics.com/inthebleachers

CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell


WE CAN DO THIS THE EASY WAY OR WE CAN DO THIS THE WAY THAT'LL GET ME A SLAP ON THE WRIST AND SIX MONTHS' PAID VACATION.
darrinbell.substack.com
1-29 WWW.CANDORVILLE.COM
©2023 Darrin Bell dist. by King Features Syndicate
DARRIN BELL

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett


MALLETT
THIS SURVIVAL EXPERT DUDE WRITES:
"IT IS NORMAL TO DIE.
BUT WE ONLY DO IT ONCE.
WHICH IS TOO BAD, BECAUSE
IT MIGHT BE THE ULTIMATE LEARNING EXPERIENCE."
KIND OF PUTS MATH WORK-SHEETS INTO PERSPECTIVE.
GRIM AND BOGUS.
BOGUS?
CATS SUPPOSEDLY GET NINE SUCH LEARNING EXPERIENCES.
I THINK I SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING.
SO WHY IS MY CAT KIND OF DENSE?
MAYBE SHE'S STILL ON HER FIRST ONE.
HMM. MAYBE IT TAKES GETTING SHUT IN MY T-SHIRT DRAWER THE FULL NINE TIMES.
1-29
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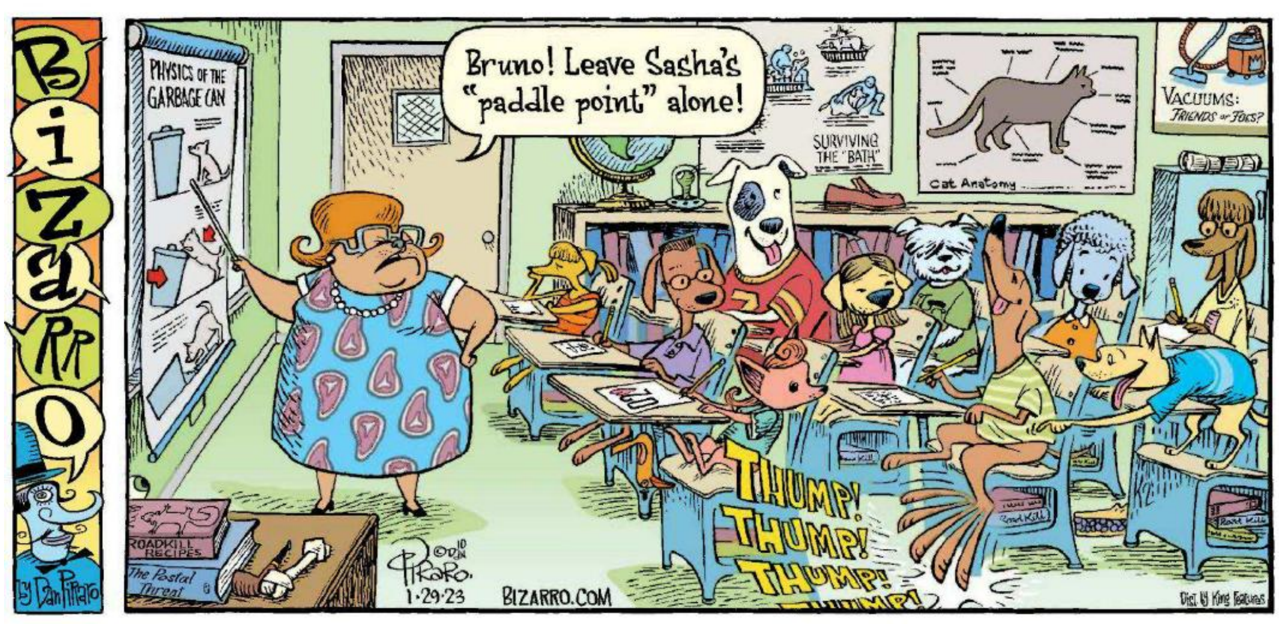
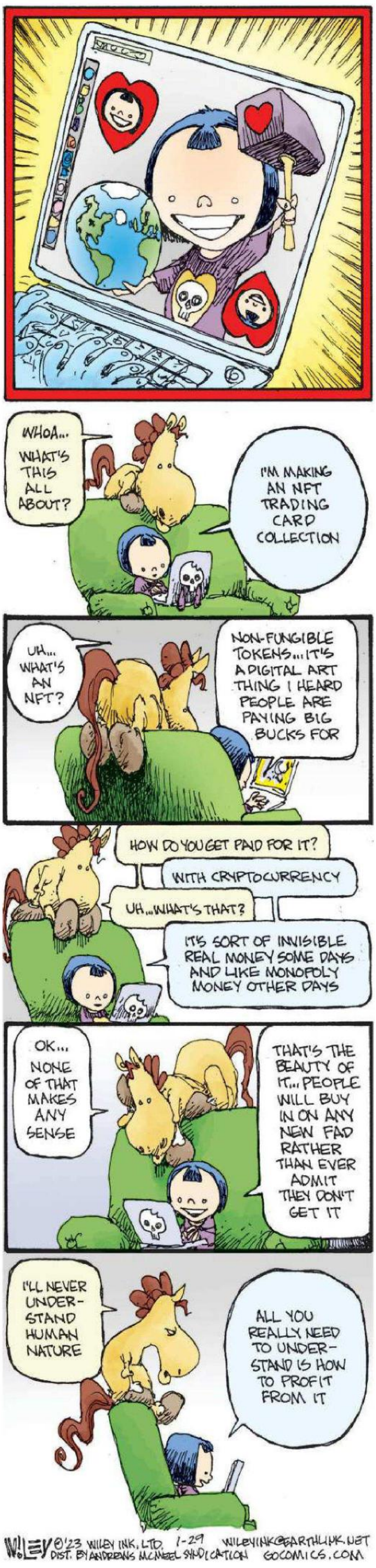

BiZaRRO
by Dan Piraro
PHYSICS OF THE GARBAGE CAN
Bruno! Leave Sasha's "paddle point" alone!
SURVIVING THE "BATH"
Cat Anatomy
VACUUMS: FRIENDS or FOES?
ROADKILL RECIPES
The Postal Threat
THUMP! THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!
PIRARO 1·29·23
BIZARRO.COM
Dist by King Features

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley


WHOA... WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'M MAKING AN NFT TRADING CARD COLLECTION
UH... WHAT'S AN NFT?
NON-FUNGIBLE TOKENS...IT'S A DIGITAL ART THING I HEARD PEOPLE ARE PAYING BIG BUCKS FOR
HOW DO YOU GET PAID FOR IT?
WITH CRYPTOCURRENCY
UH...WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S SORT OF INVISIBLE REAL MONEY SOME DAYS AND LIKE MONOPOLY MONEY OTHER DAYS
OK... NONE OF THAT MAKES ANY SENSE
THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF IT...PEOPLE WILL BUY IN ON ANY NEW FAD RATHER THAN EVER ADMIT THEY DON'T GET IT
I'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND HUMAN NATURE
ALL YOU REALLY NEED TO UNDER-STAND IS HOW TO PROFIT FROM IT
WILEY ©'23 WILEY INK, LTD. 1-29 WILEYINK@EARTHLINK.NET
DIST. BY ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION GOCOMICS.COM

Parade

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2023 | PARADE.COM

PLUS
Tom Brady, p. 5

TRACEE ELLIS ROSS

The Emmy-nominated *Black-ish* actress and activist on the power of storytelling and the art of being yourself

"I've worked incredibly hard to feel the way I feel at 50"

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WALTER SCOTT'S
Personality
Parade

Will Britton ever sing again, like she did in *Nashville*? Go to ***Parade.com/connie*** to find out.

***Dear Edward* has funny moments. Does humor play a role in grieving?** One of the things that I've learned is how important it is to connect in some way to a sense of laughter, and a sense of humor. I've lost both my parents, and in both cases when we were having the funerals and we were working through community and grief around that, there was so much laughter. That's the thing that I remember most of all. I hope this show suggests that we all have permission even in the midst of grief to find that fundamental human sense of joy and lightness.

WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

CONNIE BRITTON

The *Nashville, Friday Night Lights* and *The White Lotus* star, 55, faces a major tragedy in her latest role for TV. In *Dear Edward* (Feb. 3 on Apple TV+), Britton plays Dee Dee, a woman whose husband died in a plane crash that killed all aboard except for a 12-year-old boy named Edward. In an examination of the human spirit, the story follows Edward and the relatives of those lost as they come together after the crash.

This is a story about unexpected loss. Did you learn something about grief playing Dee Dee? I did. Grief is such a profound and organic topic. It really is something that we all deal with and it's fundamentally human. Yet it's something that feels so elusive, particularly in the American culture. I find having gone through grief in my own life that a lot of times we don't have ways to work through it and to handle it. We're not given the tools or the language for it. This was really a wonderful opportunity to explore that. I really learned playing Dee Dee that grief comes in many forms. It can certainly come from the loss of a loved one, but also from the loss of your own sense of self or your own sense of what you know or what you perceive your life to be.

What was it about Dee Dee that spoke to you? This character represents a woman that we could see from a distance, and we'd have all these ideas of who she is, all these perceptions of who she is. Frankly, she has all those perceptions and projections about herself. What's really fun is to dismantle and unpack that. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore this woman who grew up thinking that she had a certain set of values and then realizes that her values are something else entirely and her life is something else entirely, and she grows from that.

Do you think, as the show demonstrates, that we don't always fully know the people we loved? The show explores how truly difficult and complicated intimacy is. Even in the midst of intimacy in love and in life, we have closed doors and dark rooms. Sometimes it is hard, even with those we love, to be our whole selves and to show our whole selves. I like the way the show explores that fully.

Jason Katims, the showrunner for *Dear Edward*, also worked on *Friday Night Lights*. Was that show a turning point in your career? Oh, absolutely. It did change my life. It was the first time that I did a show that really got into the zeitgeist and was really beloved. Because of the way modern media is, people have continued to discover *Friday Night Lights* over the years, which is so great.

There were just so many things that I learned from doing that show that have held true for me going forward in my career and I always refer back to: *Yeah, those are my values, that's my goal, that's what I'm going for.* It was really a joy to find that again working with Jason.

What can you tell us about your next project, *Winner*, about a whistleblower? It's a movie about Reality Winner, a young decorated veteran, 26, who ended up working at the NSA [National Security Agency] in 2016. She saw classified documents that said that the government was basically covering up the fact that the Russians had meddled in the 2016 election. She anonymously sent the document to journalists, but was immediately discovered and the FBI locked her up. I play her mother, Billie Winner, who became her greatest advocate. It's a fascinating story and I think a really important story for us to see as Americans, because she was such a patriot, as are her mother and her family. I want more people to know about her and how she was treated.

FROM LEFT: AMY SUSSMAN/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; APPLE TV+

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The Parade Don't Miss List

Here's what's on our radar for the week ahead. Go to ***Parade.com/entertainment*** for more.

GWEN SHAMBLIN: STARVING FOR SALVATION

(Feb. 4. On Lifetime)

We loved her as Baby in *Dirty Dancing*, but in the new ripped-from-the-headlines TV movie, *Gwen Shamblin: Starving for Salvation* it's a **Jennifer Grey** that you've never seen before as she takes on the role of controversial megachurch leader and Christian diet guru Gwen Shamblin.

"I was fascinated by this wild, larger-than-life, controversial character when I saw the HBO documentary, *The Way Down*," said Grey, 62. "The prospect of playing a real person, in addition to someone so completely unlike me, terrified me to my core."

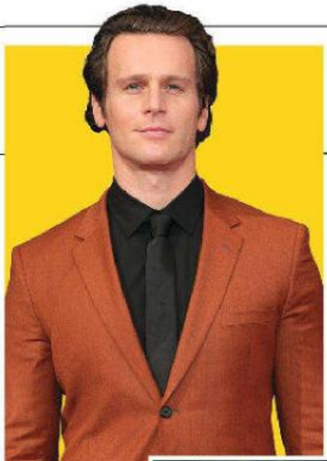
Shamblin was the founder of the Tennessee-based Remnant Fellowship Church and the Weigh Down Workshop, a successful Christian-based diet program that preached the virtue of a slim waist and the power of prayer for weight loss. "I'm very curious about charismatic leaders, especially one that held so much sway over her devoted followers spanning 20 years, and then started her own church in a conservative Christian landscape that has almost exclusively belonged to men," added Grey.

Shamblin died in May 2021 when the plane that her husband, Joe, was flying crashed shortly after takeoff, killing the couple, their son-in-law, and four other Church leaders.

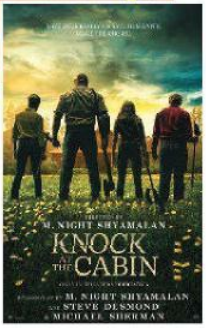
Love Jennifer Grey? Go to ***Parade.com/jennifer*** to read her full interview.

KNOCK AT THE CABIN

(in theaters Feb. 3)

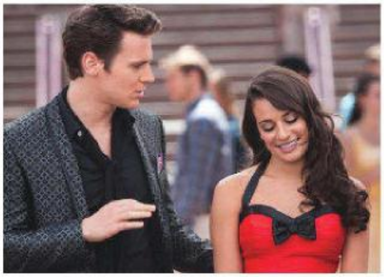


Jonathan Groff, 37, best known as a music man, ventures to the dark side in this upcoming horror film. Based on the novel *The Cabin at the End of the World* by Paul G. Tremblay, director M. Night Shyamalan has turned the book into a film about a family of three who is taken hostage by four strangers demanding that they sacrifice one of their own to avert the apocalypse. Here are some facts you may not know about the Tony-nominated actor.



▶ Groff was accepted at Carnegie Mellon University but deferred for a year when he was cast as Rolf in the national tour of *The Sound of Music*. Afterward, instead of attending college, he moved to NYC to pursue a career in theater.

▶ His *One Life to Live* role as Henry Mackler was written out after the Virginia Tech tragedy in April 2007, because his storyline was about a school shooting.



Groff played Jesse St. James, the love interest of Rachel Berry (**Michele Lea**), on *Glee*. Their characters married in the series finale.

▶ He got his first Tony nomination in 2007 for originating the role of Melchior Gabor in the rock musical *Spring Awakening*. In 2016, he was nominated for his role as King George III in Hamilton.

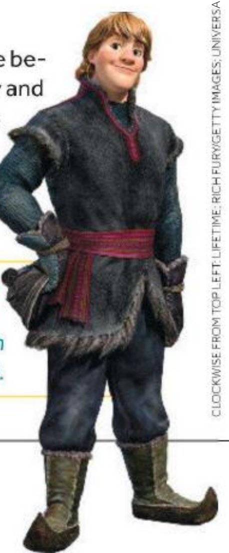
▶ While filming a performance of "Bohemian Rhapsody" on *Glee* in 2009, his dance partner cut him with her stilettos, resulting in a 5-inch scar on his bicep.

▶ Groff replaced Hugo Weaving as Agent Smith in *The Matrix Resurrections*, the fourth film in the franchise.

▶ He grew up among Amish communities in Ronks, Pa., and spent his teenage years driving his Amish neighbors, who were not allowed to drive cars.

▶ Sutton Foster is one of his greatest influences. As an aspiring actor, he would wait at the stage door after her performances to get her autograph.

▶ Groff splits his time between New York City and Pennsylvania, where he purchased a home next to his father's horse farm.



That's Groff voicing the character of Kristoff in *Frozen* and *Frozen 2*.

Go to ***Parade.com/groff*** to watch the original cast of *Spring Awakening* perform at the Tonys.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: LIFETIME; RICH FURY/GETTY IMAGES; UNIVERSAL; CINEMATIC COLLECTION /ALAMY; FOX IMAGE COLLECTION VIA GETTY IMAGES

Jane Fonda wore eight different wigs in her role. Go to ***Parade.com/brady*** to find out more.

80 FOR BRADY

(IN THEATERS FEB. 3)

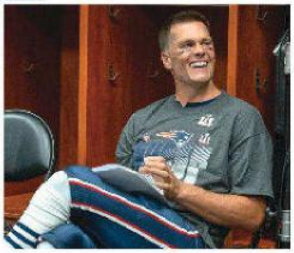
This star-filled film is based on the true story of four friends from Massachusetts who decide to take a trip to the 2017 Super Bowl LI to see their hero, Tom Brady, play. But more than a football film, the real theme is that it's never too late to chase a dream. At any age, you can still be discovering new things about yourself and what you want in life. And those women making the trip? They're played by **Rita Moreno, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin** and **Sally Field**. There's also an original song, "Gonna Be You," written by Grammy and Emmy award-winning songwriter Diane Warren, that features a powerhouse group of iconic female singers, including Dolly Parton, Belinda Carlisle, Cyndi Lauper, Gloria Estefan and Debbie Harry. Here are some behind-the-scenes snippets from the various players in the film.

LILY TOMLIN, 83 "The concept of four female friends trying to wheedle their way into the greatest-ever Super Bowl is incredibly fun. But even more fun was working with Jane, Rita and Sally. They're all equally sweet, talented, irreverent and in love with life."

JANE FONDA, 85 "I wanted to be part of *80 For Brady* because I think we all need to have a good time right now. People need to laugh and feel optimistic, and this is definitely a feel-good comedy. Lots of outrageous things happen along the journey but it ends up being deeply poignant, in an uplifting way. Women's friendships are face-to-face whereas men's friendships are side-by-side. Women tend to have more soul-level friendships. Women are not afraid of being vulnerable with our friends. We will always drill down to what is really going on emotionally, but we truly are there for each other when the going gets tough."

RITA MORENO, 91 Moreno describes the film as "a delicious romp full of hijinks. It could be about any group of people but what makes it unique is that when you are our age, you are truly ready to do whatever you please, to say exactly what you want and be who you are, because what do you have to lose? These ladies use all their experience and attitude to tackle anything that happens."

SALLY FIELD, 76 "I'm a huge sports fan myself and I think the world underestimates how many older women are. Sports is one of the best ways to build camaraderie. And it's that camaraderie that propels these women into a weekend more exciting than anything they had ever conceived of. You have the flat-out fun of four older women friends getting into shenanigans while always having each other's backs."



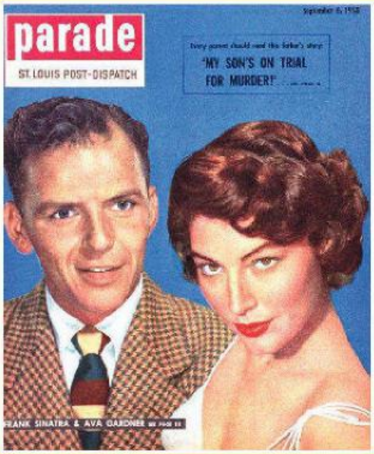
TOM BRADY, 45 "This story centers on things I really care about. Football aside, it's about relationships, overcoming adversity and having the resiliency and imagination to make things happen in your life. These ladies embody that as much as any athlete. And to be able to tell this story with these screen icons has been an amazing experience. They are the GOATs at what they do, and it's been a treat for me to see them in action bringing this story to life with all their charisma and humor."

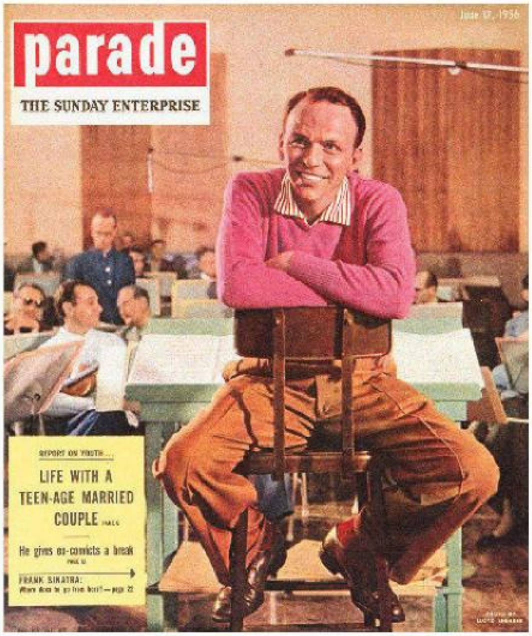
GUY FIERI, 55 (playing himself) "I was mostly just trying to keep it together in front of Sally. Luckily, this role is in my wheelhouse. Not that I've ever hosted a hot-wings contest before, but I do know hot food and I've done a lot of rallying people together at festivals."

BILLY PORTER, 53 "What sets this film apart is that there's so much history that Lily, Jane, Rita and Sally bring. I grew up with these ladies—and I've learned so much about being an artist and humanitarian from them. Also, their work ethics are second to none. And the movie's theme is wonderful. I've never believed 'old' is a dirty word. I'd rather be wise than young, and this story is about four wise women having the time of their lives."

FROM TOP LEFT: PARAMOUNT PICTURES; SCOTT GARFIELD/PARAMOUNT PICTURES (3)

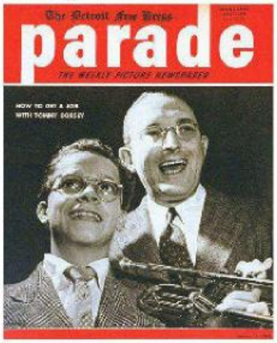
PARADE Vault


September 6, 1953
parade
ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
"MY SON'S ON TRIAL FOR MURDER!"
FRANK SINATRA & AVA GARDNER


June 17, 1956
parade
THE SUNDAY ENTERPRISE
REPORT ON YOUTH...
LIFE WITH A TEEN-AGE MARRIED COUPLE
He gives ex-convicts a break
FRANK SINATRA:

OUR MUSICAL PAST

With the upcoming Grammys (Feb. 5 on CBS) and the death of Lisa Marie Presley, we've had music on our mind. For nine decades, *Parade* has celebrated the music of each era, and put the spotlight on musicians—from Elvis and Frank Sinatra (many times) to the Beatles and Glen Gampbell. Music, after all, isn't just toe-tapping. It tells stories, reflects the times—and makes us feel, remember and learn. Here's a sampling of the covers from the 1940s to 1970s we found in the *Parade* vault. Check back next week for more from 1970s to present, including Cher, Garth Brooks and Sting. BY ANNE KRUEGER


The Detroit Free Press
parade
THE WEEKLY PICTURE NEWSPAPER
HOW TO GET A JOB WITH TOMMY DORSEY

TOMMY DORSEY

Jan. 16, 1944

It wouldn't have been the big band era without jazz trombonist, composer and bandleader Dorsey. In this *Parade* story, he's taken 14-year-old Red Andrews under his wing and has promised the young trumpeter a job when he turns 16.

FRANK SINATRA

Sept. 5, 1953 and June 17, 1956

In 1956, Sinatra was selling out the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas and had recorded new albums with six million copies sold. Was the crooner (who was married to Ava Gardner) happy? He really didn't want to talk about that: "I am what I am," he told *Parade* defiantly. "The time you start talkin' to yourself is when you're unhappy, when you wanna change. I don't wanna change." Happy or not, Sinatra won nine Grammys and was nominated 31 times.

Parade
Don't be ashamed to be a housewife!

SANDRA DEE

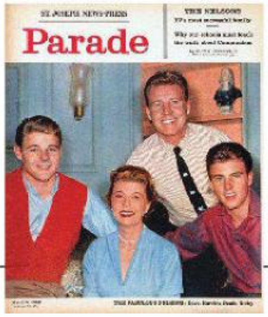
Nov. 3, 1957

At 15, Lee told *Parade* "I love to act, and after I get to be 22, I'm going to settle down and get married and quit this business..." Indeed, she went on to marry (and divorce) singer-actor Bobby Darin (she was 17, he was 24) and star as Gidget and Tammy in the movies. She released several singles and was the subject of the *Grease* song, "Look at me, I'm Sandra Dee," written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey in 1971.

THE NELSON FAMILY

March 2, 1958

"They've made $5 million just by being themselves—and now look at their singing 17-year-old!" crowed *Parade* about the family who starred in TV's *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet*. Son Ricky, 17, had become a "teenager's delight" in the past year, after playing guitar and singing on the show. This was the year he'd have a number 1 hit "Poor Little Fool" on the *Billboard*'s Hot 100 chart. Nelson won a Spoken Word Grammy in 1987.


ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS
Parade
THE NELSONS

JUDY GARLAND

Dec. 15, 1963

Parade
JUDY GARLAND TV'S BIG ?

The first woman to win an Album of the Year Grammy (in 1961 for *Judy at Carnegie Hall)* had her own CBS show when she graced the cover of *Parade*. Many of her songs, including "Over the Rainbow," are in the Grammy Hall of Fame. In 1997, she received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, 28 years after she'd died.

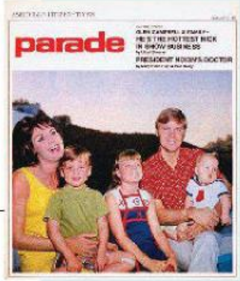
DIAHANN CARROLL

August 25, 1968

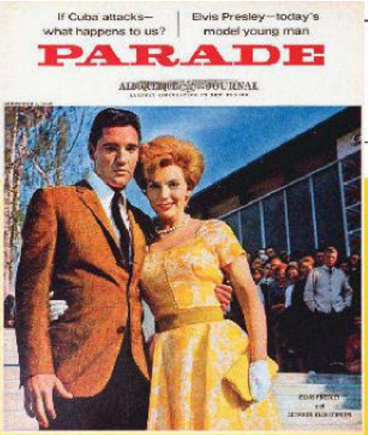
Grammy-nominated Carroll, who *Parade* called "a musical comedy vocalist of striking beauty who has sung on Broadway and acted in a few movies," was about to star in *Julia*, a TV drama about the widow of a Vietnam vet. "Sung on Broadway" didn't quite cover it; Carroll had won a Tony Award for Best Actress in a Music (a first for a Black woman) for her performance in *No Strings*.

GLEN CAMPBELL

Feb. 8, 1970



The "hip hick," 33, had his own TV show, *The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour*. "Gentle on My Mind," "Wichita Lineman" and "Galveston" had all become hits. He was nominated for 21 Grammys and won six.

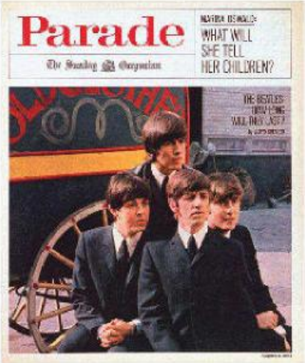

If Cuba attacks— what happens to us?
Elvis Presley—today's model young man
PARADE

Want more Grammys? Go to ***Parade.com/grammy*** for the stories behind the biggest award-winners.

ELVIS PRESLEY

Nov 4, 1962

Starstruck *Parade* couldn't say enough about Presley in this cover story: "Despite all his money, Presley today is one of the most considerate, well-mannered young gentlemen in the movie colony. He addresses his seniors as 'Sir' and 'Ma'am' and his treatment of co-workers, no matter what their salary scale, is courteous, sincere and democratic. He is warm, charming and friendly to everyone ... Elvis is regarded as a paragon of virtue, 'one star who has kept his nose clean.'" In his lifetime, Elvis was nominated for a Grammy 14 times and won three in gospel categories.



BEATLES

August 2, 1964

"Will They Last?" this cover asked. Elvis manager Colonel Tom Parker told *Parade*: "A lot of people say they'll pass just as quickly as they came on. Reminds me of what they said about Elvis. 'He's a passing fancy...can't possibly last.' Well, Elvis is a full-fledged movie star. I predict the same thing will happen to the Beatles." The Beatles were nominated for 23 Grammys and won seven; the first two less than a year after this cover story: Best Performance By a Vocal Group for *A Hard Day's Night* and Best New Artist. In 2014, they received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

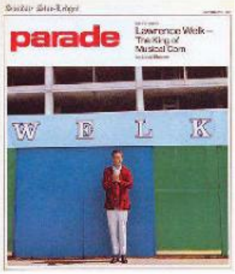
BUFFY SAINTE-MARIE

Dec. 13, 1970

"The best-known fighter for the American Indian since Geronimo is a spunky, sexy, 100-pound girl named Buffy Sainte-Marie." We apologize for *Parade*'s description of the Native American folksinger, 29, who was a member of the Cree tribe. Sainte-Marie's biggest hit was "Until It's Time for You to Go." She set up a foundation to help young Native Americans go to school and made her own clothes, from a yellow mini to a purple velvet tunic. "Just don't look for me in buckskin and fringes," she said.

LAWRENCE WELK

Nov. 15, 1970



"Lawrence Welk, the fabulously successful bandleader who caters primarily to 'The Geriatric Set'...enjoyed the best of all possible worlds," according to *Parade*. At 67, the king of musical corn—whose only training was a mail-order piano-tuning course—was the second-wealthiest performer (after Bob Hope) in show business, and after 16 seasons was second only to Ed Sullivan in TV longevity. Two years later, his show would be cancelled. He had one Grammy nomination.

COVER AND OPENER BY DAN DOPERALSKI/VARIETY VIA CONTOUR RA BY GETTY IMAGES

TRACEE ELLIS ROSS

The Emmy-nominated *Black-ish* actress and activist is still a curious child at heart. "It's what turns me on about life," she says.

BY MARA REINSTEIN

In an alternate universe, Tracee Ellis Ross would have been an excellent meteorologist. "I'm checking the weather right now," she says breathlessly from her New York City hotel room. It's a busy Friday morning, and she's T minus 60 minutes from jumping in a car and then jetting home to L.A. to spend time with her family. That is, if the forecast cooperates. "Right now it's 46 degrees and drizzling but as the day progresses, the temperature is going to drop in an insane way. I'm looking at the wind speeds too. We better get talking!"

The reality, of course, is that Ross shines as an award-winning actress, producer, entrepreneur, model and social activist and advocate. Travel chaos aside, she's eager to sound off on all the above.

"I've always loved telling stories," she says. "It's about connection and humanity and finding the differences that make our world so robust and textured and beautiful. I'm also one of those people who loves going to dinner by myself and asking people, 'Who are you?' I'm still that curious kid at heart. It's what turns me on about life."

Ross, 50, puts these talents to use as the executive producer of the new Dear Media-produced podcast anthology, *I Am America*. Each of the weekly ten episodes spotlights a person of color who overcame the odds to become an unconventional success story and represent, in her words, "culture, belonging and community." Storytellers include activist architect Deanna Van Buren (who designs spaces for peacekeeping), content producer and Initiate Justice co-founder Richie Reseda and comunity leader Kier Gaines.

Ross, who spent more than a year with her team developing *I Am America*, provides the introductions and closing statements. She's so passionate about the output that she reads a passage aloud directly from her Google document during the interview. "I'm just providing the framework and creating context," she explains. "It was really important for me that these stories were not told through my voice. I'm just supporting these angels of America

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and allowing them to have their own narrative."

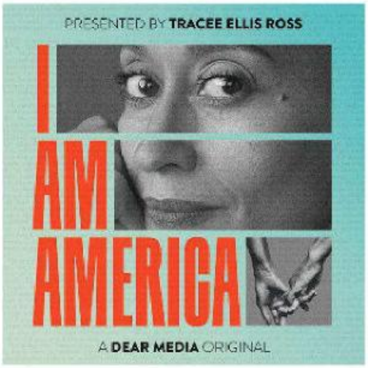
OVER HER RAINBOW

Of course, no one expected Ross to stay home and stare at her trophies after wrapping her run as Dr. Rainbow "Bow" Johnson on *Black-ish* in 2021. (The awards are displayed on a bookshelf in her home office, by the way.) "It's not really about what I wanted to do or didn't want to do post-*Black-ish*," she says of the ABC family comedy, which aired for eight seasons. "But I had a mission to join the chorus of voices that are working to make this world a safer place so people can be free to be who they are and take pride in that."

Beyond *I Am America*, she co-wrote and hosted *The Hair Tales,* a six-part 2022 OWN docuseries that explored Black women through their hair. (Ross, Oprah Winfrey and Michaela Angela Davis were all excecutive producers.) She voices the main character and exec-produced the upcoming animated film *Jodie,* a spin-off of the '90s cult classic, *Daria*. Last fall, she launched PATTERN, her bestselling hair care line that targets curly, coil-y and tight hair textures. Ross reports that she's about to enter "the plug-in world" with a blow dryer and four attachment accessories. "I've made these things completely out of my own heart and experiences," she says.

Granted, these projects were in the works long before viewers saw Bow and her husband, Dre (Anthony Anderson), move out of their Sherman Oaks home in *Black-ish*'s April finale. But they all happened to coincide with a milestone event in Ross' life: Her 50th birthday.

Clockwise from top: The Johnson family celebrated a wedding in a 2020 episode of *Black-ish*. Ross shone bright at a party for her haircare line, PATTERN last year. The *I Am America* podcast is available on the Apple Podcasts app.



Reaching the half-decade mark last October proved empowering, even for someone with confidence to spare. "I've worked incredibly hard to feel the way I feel at 50—and I don't mean all the trappings of the success in my career," Ross says. "To hold space for myself every day comes with a mixed bag. But the reason I can have this compassion for others is because I've learned to have compassion for myself. I've learned to support myself in a different way, and now this is how I navigate the world."

GROWING UP ROSS-ISH

She's navigated it as the daughter of 78-year-old Motown music legend Diana Ross. And there's a reason why the lineage has gone unmentioned until now. "Early in my career, I was very specific in that I had no interest in using who my mom was to get things," she says. "Even now, a bell is going off in my head because I know that answering one question about

FROM TOP: RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/ABC/GETTY IMAGES; LEON BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES FOR PATTERN BEAUTY

her is going to be a headline."

Besides, she says with a laugh, "The thing that cracks me up is that I'm a 50-year-old adult so I'm not, like, my mom's child anymore!"

That's not to say Ross isn't close with her—"her icon-ness doesn't hold a candle to how iconic she is as my mom"—or isn't proud of her eclectic upbringing. Born in L.A. to the Grammy-winning star and music executive/manager Robert Ellis Silberstein, Ross boasts that she never had a "straight-line" life. She uprooted to NYC in the late 1970s so her mom could film the 1978 musical *The Wiz* and resided there through eighth grade. (The couple divorced in 1977.) She then lived in Paris and Switzerland for two years to attend boarding school and headed back to California to what she calls "my childhood country home."

Ross says she inherited her performance and "connection" genes from her mom. "She can go on stage at one of her concerts and make everyone feel like she's singing directly to them," she says. She adds that her dad, 77, is a gregarious and funny storyteller who passed down the trait to both her and her younger sister, Chudney. (She has three other half-siblings.) "I'd get in trouble in school because I'd just interrupt class to tell stories and imitate people with my body to make everyone laugh," she says.

Ross dabbled in teen modeling, graduated with a theater degree from the prestigious Brown University and worked as an unpaid intern at *Mirabella* magazine right out of school. Next, she moved to *New York Magazine* to help shore

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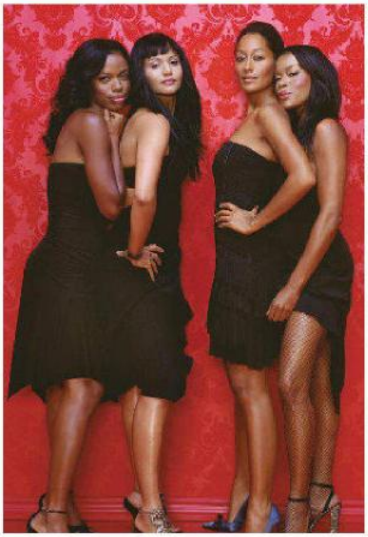

Clockwise from top: Ross earned a **Golden Globe**, seven NAACP Image Awards and five Emmy nominations for her role as Dr. Rainbow Johnson in ***Black-ish*** (2014-2022). Anthony Anderson played husband Dre in ***Black-ish.*** In the long-running series ***Girlfriends*** (2000-2008), Ross was lawyer Joan Clayton, the unofficial den mother for a group of friends, played by **Jill Marie Jones, Persia White** and **Golden Brooks**. Ross, indeed, hits the high notes as singer/songwriter Grace Davis in ***The High Note*** (2020), a film with **Dakota Johnson**. She worked with a voice coach to prepare for the role.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; RICHARD CARTWRIGHT VIA GETTY IMAGES; DARIEN DAVIS/CBS PHOTO ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; ENTERTAINMENT PICTURES/ALAMY

from page 11

up its fashion department. “I came out of my mom’s womb ready to shop and steal all her clothes,” she jokes.

Her first foray into professional acting? Two rounds of auditions for a role in Spike Lee’s 1992 *Malcolm X* biopic starring Denzel Washington. She didn’t get it, but the casting director pulled her aside to compliment her instincts. “She said, ‘I think you might want to consider doing this,’” she recalls. “I was like, ‘So what do we do?’”

Step one was move back to L.A. Ellis armed herself with a three-ring binder full of audition calls and dutifully pounded the pavement. She came up (mostly) empty. By the late 1990s, her agent dropped her with stinging words that Ross can still recite note-for-note. “I’ll never forget it,” she says. “She said, ‘You come with all these amazing things. You’re stylish. You’re great-looking. Your mom is a somebody. Then you walk in a room for an audition and you just don’t pop. Nothing happens.’”

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Ross says she held on to that rejection “for a long time.” Yet she admits that the agent wasn’t necessarily wrong: “It’s not true to say that actors need to have thick skin in this business. I believe that acting is sharing yourself with someone and being open with porous skin and an open heart. But something really wasn’t translating in the room. I had a big personality but was painfully shy.”

The conversation proved to be a turning point. “I decided that I was going to continue acting as long as it was fun,” she says. “I didn’t want to act to get validation that I was worthy as a human being. I had to separate those things and not get caught up in people’s opinions of me.”

Clockwise from top: Ross with her mom at a 2019 party for the Oscars. Ross with her father, Robert Ellis Silverstein in 2010. A family photo with Ross and her mother and siblings in 2005 at the Clive Davis pre-Grammys party.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: KEVIN MAZUR/VF19/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; BEN HIDER/GETTY IMAGES; KMAZUR/WIREIMAGE FOR J RECORDS

She also felt the need to transcend her mom’s last name. “I knew from a young age that people paid attention to me because I was an extension of someone they loved,” she says. “I felt it was very disingenuous for me to ride on the love that she had.”

Instead, she carved out her own success. By 2000, she landed the role of successful lawyer Joan Clayton in the sitcom *Girlfriends*. It centered on four young Black women looking for love and adventure in L.A. and aired for 172 episodes on UPN and the CW through 2008. She also appeared on *CSI* and the *Grey’s Anatomy* spin-off *Private Practice.* Then, in 2014, she captured our hearts as the cool-headed wife, doctor and mother of five in *Black-ish.* Aside from the Golden Globes, Ross was nominated for five Emmy awards for her performance.

For all of her and the show's accolades and acclaim, she says the highlight was hanging in the hair and makeup trailer, pre-pandemic, with all her costars. "There was music and joy and lines being read back and forth," she says. "I think that joy translated onto the screen."

ON HAPPINESS

Besides the satisfaction of bonding with costars and a job well done, she finds joy in her home and in time with friends and family. She enjoys puttering around her house solo and catching up with her close girlfriends at a dinner "called for 7 p.m. *the latest.*" Asked when she's happiest, she describes scenes from her childhood home: "I love being in the bedroom napping and the doors are open and I hear the never-ending rustle and screaming of all my nieces and nephews. Then I go to the kitchen and we're all cooking, talking, eating and hanging."

And she's determined to build a joyful life her own way. "A husband and kids isn't the only place to find meaning—all those cultural norms don't work for me," she says. "I don't understand how our world is still so steeped in those old-school ideas that have nothing to do with humanity or who we are and who we want to be in the world. I've learned it's OK if I have a story that doesn't match the picture that someone wants to make for me."

FROM TOP: FILMPUBLICITYARCHIVE/UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; ISTOCK; A. DOHENY/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES; PRINCE WILLIAMS/WIREIMAGE/GETTY IMAGES

A FEW OF TRACEE'S FAVORITE THINGS

COOKING SPECIALTY

"I'm a really good salad maker. People who don't even like **salads** are like, 'What the f--- did you do to this?' The secret is dressing made from freshly squeezed lemons and a good olive oil."

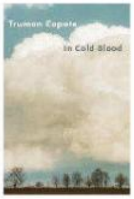
LAST TIME I WAS STARSTRUCK

I cried meeting [author] **Anne Lamott.**

INSPRING EARLY MOVIES

"The original ***Sabrina*** [1954], *Dr. Doolittle* [1967] and *Grease* [1978]"

PAGE-TURNER



"This is going to sound crazy, but Truman Capote's ***In Cold Blood*** [from 1966] was the first book I ever thought was a page-turner. I loved it!"

FAVORITE ITEM IN MY CLOSET

"I have these Rachel Comey jeans that make me look like I'm in kindergarten. They're high-waisted with an elastic waistband and a zipper right up the front that goes all the way down to the crotch. They're so comfortable, and I feel really cute in them."

MOST-PLAYED SPOTIFY SONG

Drake's "Sticky" and Mustafa the Poet's "Come Back"

ISTOCK

HOW HEALTHY IS YOUR PERSONALITY?

Asking yourself a few questions can help you better understand the tendencies that support or sabotage your health. **BY PAULA SPENCER SCOTT**

Our personalities influence more than whether we like parties or try to avoid arguments. Personality can affect our well-being. "There's no such thing as a disease-specific, 'cancer-prone personality' or a 'coronary-prone personality,'" says psychology researcher Howard Friedman, PhD. But some people have a healthy or "self-healing" personality, made up of characteristics that lead them to healthy behaviors and better resistance to stressors, he says. Others, not so much. Read on to check your own personality quirks and find out how they might influence your health.

IS THE GLASS HALF FULL OR HALF EMPTY?

When 139,000 post-menopausal women were studied for 14 years, those with low optimism, high negativity and high hostility were more likely to develop type-2 diabetes than those who scored on the opposite end of the scale for these traits. The most optimistic had a 12 percent lower incidence of diabetes. Knowing personality type may help doctors tweak effective treatments, the researchers say.

ARE YOU PERKY PAUL OR A DEBBIE DOWNER?

Some research has linked being anxious, moody or emotionally unstable with increased Alzheimer's risk.

ARE YOU A RULE FOLLOWER OR A REBEL?

If you are a fan of rules you are displaying conscientiousness. It means being dependable, responsible, organized, persistent and able to delay reward. It's the trait most linked to good health outcomes.

"Being persistent is much healthier than being impetuous or carefree," Friedman says. "Conscientious individuals do more things to protect their health [like going to the doctor or finishing medicine] and avoid risky activities like smoking, substance abuse or driving without a seatbelt. They also find their way to happier marriages, better friendships and healthier jobs." No surprise, they live longer, too, according to data in a famous eight-decade study of 1,500 Americans known as The Longevity Project.

One reason for the longevity may be that committing to a health or fit-

Want more health tips?
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to stay well this winter.

THE PERSONALITY TRAIT SCALE

Our differences fall into these five big buckets, researchers say. A healthy personality is higher in the traits on the left of each spectrum below. Most of us fall somewhere in the middle of each.

AGREEABLENESS

friendly/compassionate/cooperative — challenging/callous/mean

CONSCIENTIOUSNESS

responsible/organized/practical — extravagant/careless/impractical

EXTRAVERSION

outgoing/energetic/chatty — solitary/reserved/quiet

OPENNESS TO EXPERIENCE

inventive/curious/nonconformist — consistent/cautious/uncreative

EMOTIONAL STABILITY

confident/contented/resilient — anxious/nervous/moody

ness plan can be easier if you're high in "planfulness"—that's a sub-trait of conscientiousness that makes you likely to target and then tackle goals. Planful people, according to University of Oregon researchers who tested students' gym-going behaviors, say things like, "I develop a clear plan when I have a goal that is important to me."

During COVID's first year, researchers discovered that conscientious people were also most likely to socially distance and practice behaviors that boost hygiene, like washing hands often, disinfecting and avoiding touching the face, according to Pavel Blagov, PhD, associate professor of psychology at Whitman College.

Being conscientious doesn't always make for corona-heroes, though. People high in this trait are also the ones who were stockpiling toilet paper early in the pandemic, according to a European study.

HOW AGREEABLE ARE YOU?

In a 2020 study conducted during the pandemic, Blagov found that those who follow public-health messages best also score high in agreeableness (going along with what others say, being honest and easy to get along with, trusting and caring for others). Those on the other end of the agreeableness spectrum—they score high in meanness (caring less about others) and disinhibition (poor impulse control)—were less likely to follow coronavirus-prevention advice. Only a small percent of the population is like this, Blagov says—but since they're the ones more apt to purposely sneeze on others or go to parties if they know they're sick, they can spread a lot of virus.

"Personality is just part of the picture," Blagov stresses. "If I'm high in conscientiousness and agreeableness, I might still forget to wash my hands. But in the long term, I'm more likely to do the right things over time and therefore more likely to be healthier and better for the community."

ARE YOU CAUTIOUS OR CURIOUS?

How open you are to new experiences also can have an impact on your health. For example, in a twist from what you'd expect, a Swiss team reported in 2020 that among 65-year-olds they tracked, those with the least shrinkage in brain volume in the areas that help predict memory loss and Alzheimer's were relatively low in agreeableness but were naturally curious and non-conformists.

ARE YOU A LONER OR SOCIAL BUTTERFLY?

Lots of social ties means lots more varied micro-organisms in your gut, and that's a marker of good health. Showing for the first time a link between personality traits and the gut microbiome, Oxford's Katerina Johnson also found that those high in stress and anxiety have less-diverse flora. This sort of research could lead to prebiotic or probiotic treatments for anxiety or depression, Johnson says.

Genes shape about 20 to 60 percent of personality; the rest comes from experiences and choices. While personalities often stay about the same through life, they tend to evolve with maturity. From around 25 to middle age, for example, most people become less anxious and more self-controlled, Friedman says. After 60, some become less social and more anxious.

Changing your nature can be tough—but doable if you're motivated and believe you can, experts say. **P**

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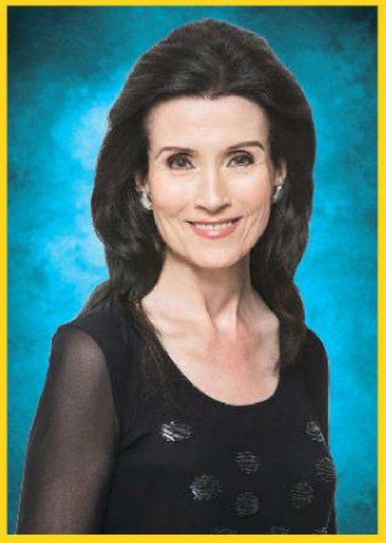
Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!



Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

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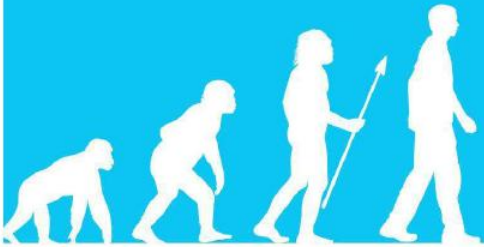
		19				55		
	22			67			74	
	27	28				80	79	

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to ***Parade.com/numbrix***.

Are humans continuing to evolve in any noticeable way, such as having improved eyes or hearing, or hearts that function better?

—Sue Carlton, Arcadia, California



Humans continue to change over time, but not in the classic evolutionary sense in which a few random mutations are advantageous for survival; most have no impact on it, and a few are disadvantageous. In the long run, one may have expected the kind of change you mention. But this is no longer the case. The overarching reason is that culture has stepped between our species and its environment, so "survival of the fittest" has far less relevance than it once did.

Some say that only the advantages and disadvantages manifested during reproductive age make a difference. That is, the more fit individual is more likely to pass on his or her family genes, and the less fit is less likely. This thinking means if an individual thrives or suffers when he or she is older, it doesn't matter in an evolutionary sense—the genes will have already been passed on (or not). Expansions on this kind of thinking abound.

My own thinking is that a more powerful force is at work. Human kindness is working to overcome nature, aiming for the survival of every human being, hence our effective and growing health-care systems. While this would seem to stifle evolutionary improvement, doing otherwise seems unthinkable.

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

WHAT'S THE QUESTION?

In February 1994, Marilyn asked readers to come up with the question for this answer:

"THE THREE LAWS OF MOTION."

How would you have answered? Turn the page to read three of Marilyn's favorite responses.

ISTOCK

SOLUTIONS

WHAT'S THE QUESTION?

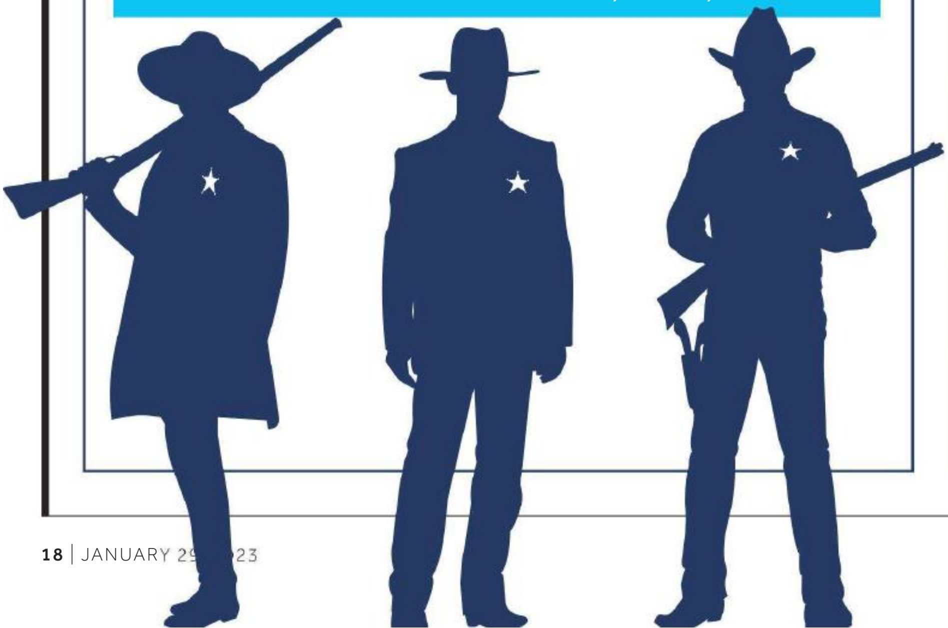
Here are some of the questions to go with the answer “The Three Laws of Motion.”

After the rock group “The Four Laws of Motion” fired their bass player, what were they called?

—Don Ertel, Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin

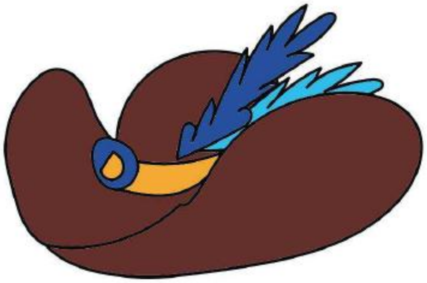
What do they call the sheriff and his two deputies in the town of Motion?

—Olin Durbin, Homer, Indiana



What was the name of the less-popular sequel to *The Three Musketeers*?

—Rick Cecala, Phoenix, Arizona



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25	26	29	30	69	70	81	78	77

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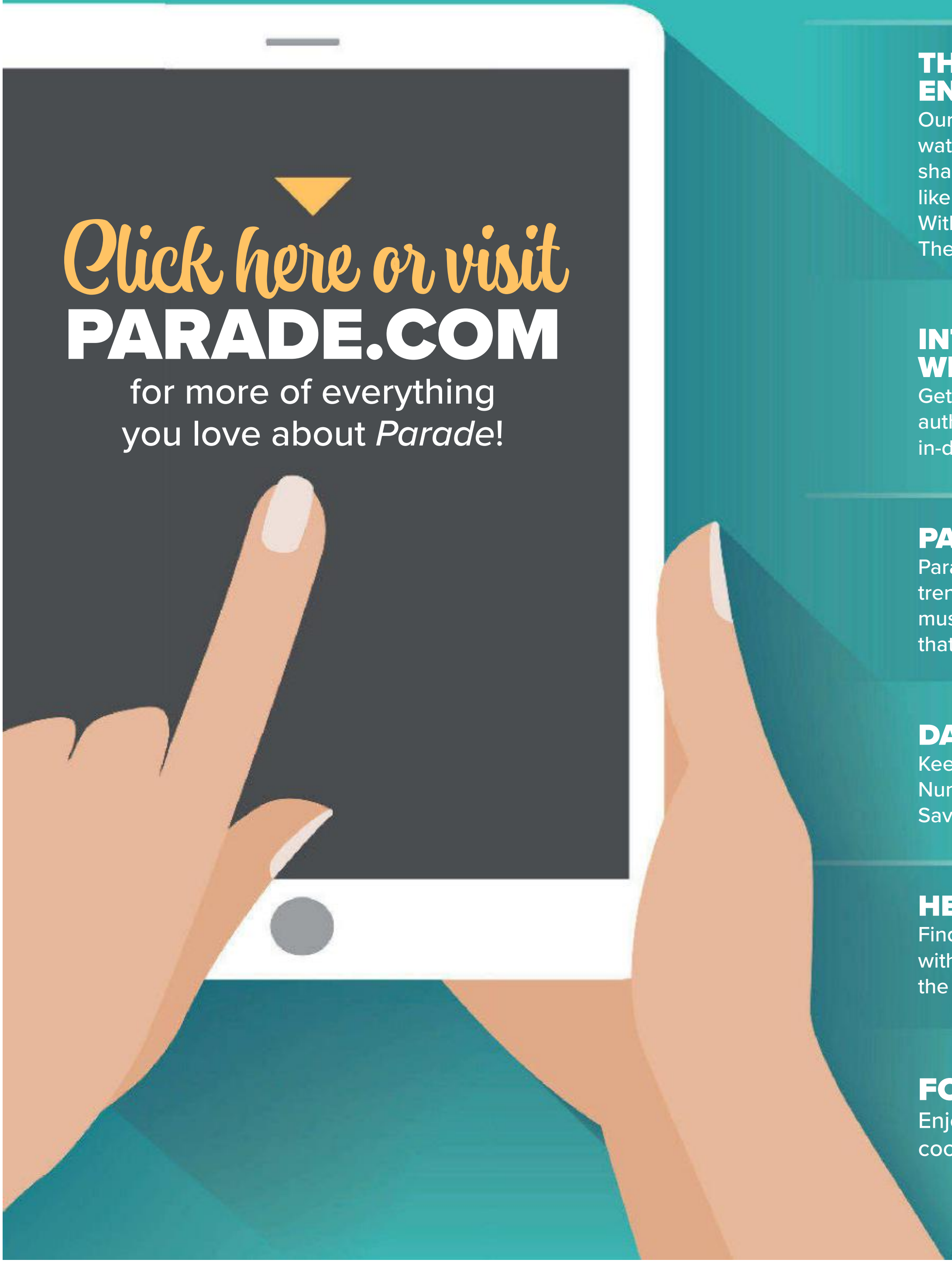

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